

HOME NEWS

Firemen's union set for pay clash

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

The stage was set yesterday for another pay collision between the Fire Brigades Union and the local authorities next winter after employers declined to reconsider their decision to withdraw from the 1978 pay formula.

In talks, which ended yesterday, the employers stood by their decision to abandon the formula which since the end of the 1977-78 firemen's strike has linked firemen's earnings with those of skilled manual workers.

At the same time they made it clear to Fire Brigades Union negotiators that they still wanted to reach an agreement enabling authorities who wish to reduce manning in some areas, particularly at night.

In a statement yesterday the Association of County Councils, which with 13 members is the biggest group on the employers' side, said that the formula which the firemen in December managed to preserve under threat of one-day strikes, "paid no heed to the overriding responsibility to provide an effective service within increasingly limited resources".

Mr John Horrell, vice-chairman of the council's association, said the employers had made it clear last year that the formula could not be guaranteed for the 1981 negotiations. He added: "Now we have given warning well in advance of the next pay round in November that the 1978 pay formula is dead".

Mr Horrell said: "Local government can no longer afford to be bound by a rigid formula made under radically different economic conditions; and in future there must be open pay negotiations in the fire service".

Unofficial estimates are that the formula, under a series of calculations based on the New Earnings Survey, would this November imply increases of between 9 and 13 per cent. The local authorities' present attitude suggests that they will attempt to limit increases to 6 per cent.

Mr Kenneth Cameron, the recently appointed general secretary of the firemen's union, is certain to make contingency plans for industrial action. He said yesterday: "The mood of the meeting was very angry on our side".



"Gang" at home: The headquarters of the Council for Social Democracy were officially opened yesterday at 22 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, when the "gang of four" posed with piles of cheques and postal orders from supporters. Which has brought in about £35,000 and more than 22,000 letters. They are (from left to right): Mr William Rodgers, Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr Roy Jenkins and Dr David Owen.

Drive to restore party unity

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Labour backbenchers, sickened by divisions inside the party, last night launched a counter-attack against infiltrators which they hope will restore unity and ensure that decisions at national and local level are taken democratically.

Backed by the party leadership, more than 100 MPs signed a declaration at the meeting, which was also attended by Mr Denis Healey, deputy party leader, and a number of shadow ministers.

Mr Roy Hattersley, home affairs spokesman, said after the meeting that there was a general feeling of outrage against defectors and unrepresentative factions.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, environment spokesman, said feelings were strong against those about to leave the party, and against extremists.

The MPs, who have set up a steering committee of the so-called Labour Solidarity Campaign plan to take it into the constituencies and the unions. It represents the full spectrum of the parliamentary party. The steering committee is composed of members of the left-wing Tribune, the centre-right Manifesto Groups, and those who do not belong to any group.

The declaration stated that the members were broadly representative of the party's mainstream majority. It added: "This majority must now vigorously assert itself and reverse the narrow and intolerant decisions and views which unrepresentative minorities have been allowed to impose upon us and now openly seek to carry further".

It said their actions had severely damaged the party's morale and its electoral chances. "We must speedily overcome the crisis of confidence within our ranks, a crisis of confidence which is apparent, too, among many of those who may not fully share our commitment but whose support we necessarily seek at the polls", the statement said.

The decision of the Wembley conference on the leadership election was described as a "self-inflicted wound" and "Solidarity" will campaign for it to be overturned. Co-operative MPs warned: The National Executive Committee of the Co-operative Party issued a statement warning its members, including its sponsored Labour MPs, that remaining in the Council for Social Democracy once it had become a separate political party would lead to automatic exclusion from the party (Our Political Editor writes).

Red herring, page 14

The centre in turmoil, 3: An ideal place for testing opinion on a new party

Social democrats make a mark in Labour oasis

By Frances Gibb

The social democrats may mean cheese-and-wine parties in Camden Town to their critics but to many a worker in Southampton's docklands they are a future party for the working class.

At the Woolston Social Club, in the heart of the constituency of Itchen, a Labour oasis in many miles of Conservative-sea, the social democrats have already made their mark among some of the regulars.

Mr James Flannery, aged 74, a Labour voter all his life, had decided he would back a new party of social democrats in another election.

"All the others are Marxists," he said. "But I am not. I am a decent, honest, hard-working man. I am a Labour voter, but I am not a Labour voter."

Mr Flannery, a retired van delivery driver, who sees the social democrats as Labour's "new beginning", is not alone. He is one of many who are turning to the new party.

Mr Brian Neil, aged 41, a self-employed social democrats voter, is a "for the working class" and a "for the working class" voter.

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Not all are as decided as Mr Flannery. But most Labour voters seem to be saying they would certainly consider giving a new party a chance.

The 81,000 voters of chiefly residential Itchen are by no means overwhelmingly Labour.

means overwhelmingly Labour, however. At the last election Mr Richard Mitchell's majority fell from 7,795 to just over 1,600 ahead of the Tories, and therefore the chances of any new party will depend as much on Conservative voters.

Disillusioned with the effects of the Government's policies, many of them, too, are willing to give a new party a crack of the whip.

Some, such as Mr K. R. Newton, aged 53, a plant operator, have already made up their minds. "My wife and I have decided, no doubt about it, to vote for a new social democratic party, as they will have the new ideas, and we hope the more for the working class."

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last time with a 2.3 per cent swing and a poll of just over 27,000 votes, against Labour's 25,000. The Liberals collected just over 6,000.

Among both Labour and Tory voters the social democrats seem to have very much the same appeal. They are seen as anti-extremist, middle-of-the-road and liberal in their values and with a fresh and (more important) to Southampton voters) "younger" outlook.

Many Labour supporters now see their party as too far to the left. "I have always voted Labour, but I am not interested in communism," Mr Ray Hoskins, aged 50, a scabber, says. "And that is the way the Labour Party is going."

Mr Michael Foot does not appeal as leader and many voters comment rather bitterly that as they are obliged to vote at 65 why should not Mr Foot be a member?

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voters in general agree that what they would want from a new party is stability, both economically and politically, and job security.

Many do not know what the social democrats stand for but are willing to back them, often for no other reason than the put by Mr David Cooke, age 31, a seaman: "They cannot do any worse than the other two parties."

But despite those already persuaded, the biggest group of voters remains the "don't know" or the "maybes".

What will swing them there are as many who will judge a new party on its policies as by its leader, although both Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr David Steel came in for "talks common sense" and "talks common sense" and "talks common sense".

Some kind of link with the Liberals would not, on the whole, be resented and would favour it, but there are no strong views on whether that should be an alliance or merger.

Voters will look to a new party first and foremost for policies on "cutting unemployment", then on help with housing, followed by a reduction in taxation, better pensions and more public spending on the National Health Service.

But above all, they hope a social democrats will stand a certain values they see as a danger of being eroded: "old values of decency and liberalism", as one Tory put it, coupled with "job prospects and security for the future of their children."

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Returns show moderate vote for Civil Service campaign on wages

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Early returns from voting in two big Civil Service unions on calls for a campaign of industrial action against the Government indicate that members are less than wholehearted in their support for the union leadership.

The unions want an increase in the Government's 6 per cent pay offer.

Leaders of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), which is the largest union with 230,000 members, and the Institution of Professional Civil Servants (IPCS), which represents 105,000 higher grade staff, were hoping for substantial votes in favour of action.

Last night voting at branch meetings of the CPSA was running at about 60 to 40 for action.

However, several large branches, including the Department of Health and Social Security at Newcastle and the vehicle licensing centre at Swansea, are still to vote, and as the union has several thousand members in those centres who tend to be more militant, their votes could tip the balance.

In the IPCS, whose members are mainly professional staff, such as engineers and scientists, the voting at meetings around the country also appears in favour of taking action.

Other unions, including the Society of Civil and Public Servants, with 100,000 members, and the 60,000-strong Inland Revenue Staff Federation have given overwhelming support to the campaign of action planned by the nine unions representing all 530,000 white-collar civil servants.

Leaders of the unions met yesterday and have indicated willingness to meet the Government for further negotiations.

There have been suggestions that ministers are prepared to increase the offer to 7 or 7½ per cent.

There is scepticism among union leaders that an extra 1½ per cent would be sufficient.

A meeting is to be held on Thursday next to discuss the action, which is expected to start with a one-day national strike on March 5.

His decision was accepted by both sides, but the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union remained dissatisfied with the board's handling of the claim.

Mr Thomas Rice, national officer, after the hearing questioned whether the employers' members on the board, Mr David Staines, whom he said was an industrial relations director with Costain's, had a direct interest as a director of a civil engineering company.

The award means that the basic salary of the lowest paid site supervisor will go from £5,510 to £6,226 a year.

Mr Murdoch has assured the independent national directors on three occasions in the last two weeks, and in a formal letter to me, that he will continue the traditions of The Times as a paper of record and of high quality.

"I have not the slightest doubt that he will honour his undertakings, and that he will dedicate his immense energy and experience to the service of the company. If this had not been the case I would not have chaired today's first meeting."

It would be a mistake for any of us to think that the problems of The Times have now been solved. What I do believe is that with the cooperation of the staffs and with the hard work of all concerned, to which Mr Murdoch has so rightly recently referred, The Times will celebrate its bicentenary in 1985.

Sir Edward Pickering, aged 68, has been vice-chairman of the Press Council since 1977. He was chief sub-editor of the Daily Mail in 1939 and after war service was appointed managing editor. He later became Editor of the Daily Express and a director of Beaverbrook Newspapers and then chairman of the International Publishing Corporation's newspaper division.

Lord Astor of Hever, aged 62, the second baron, was co-chief proprietor of The Times from 1964 to 1966, and then president of Times Newspapers Ltd. He has been president of the Commonwealth Union since 1972 and was chairman of its council from 1959 until that year.

Lord Drogheda, aged 70, was chairman of Financial Times Ltd. from 1971 until 1975 and before that managing director from 1945. From 1968 until 1970 he was chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association.

Supplement printing: The Times Literary Supplement was printed on the presses of the Chronicle and Echo evening newspaper in Northampton last night as part of a short-term contract. The Educational and Higher Education supplements are also being printed there.

Directors for 'Times' main board

Continued from page 1

many Continental countries and its special function is to protect the national interests related to the newspaper, such as a worldwide reputation, and so vital to our society. The powers of the independent national directors, now six in all, have been strengthened as the Secretary of State for Trade and the House of Commons yesterday.

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HOME NEWS

Reactions to coal crisis irritate the Government

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The alacrity with which Mrs Margaret Thatcher agreed that the planned tripartite meeting with the miners should be brought forward to today was being seen last night as a sure sign of her sharp concern that the situation had got out of hand quite unnecessarily.

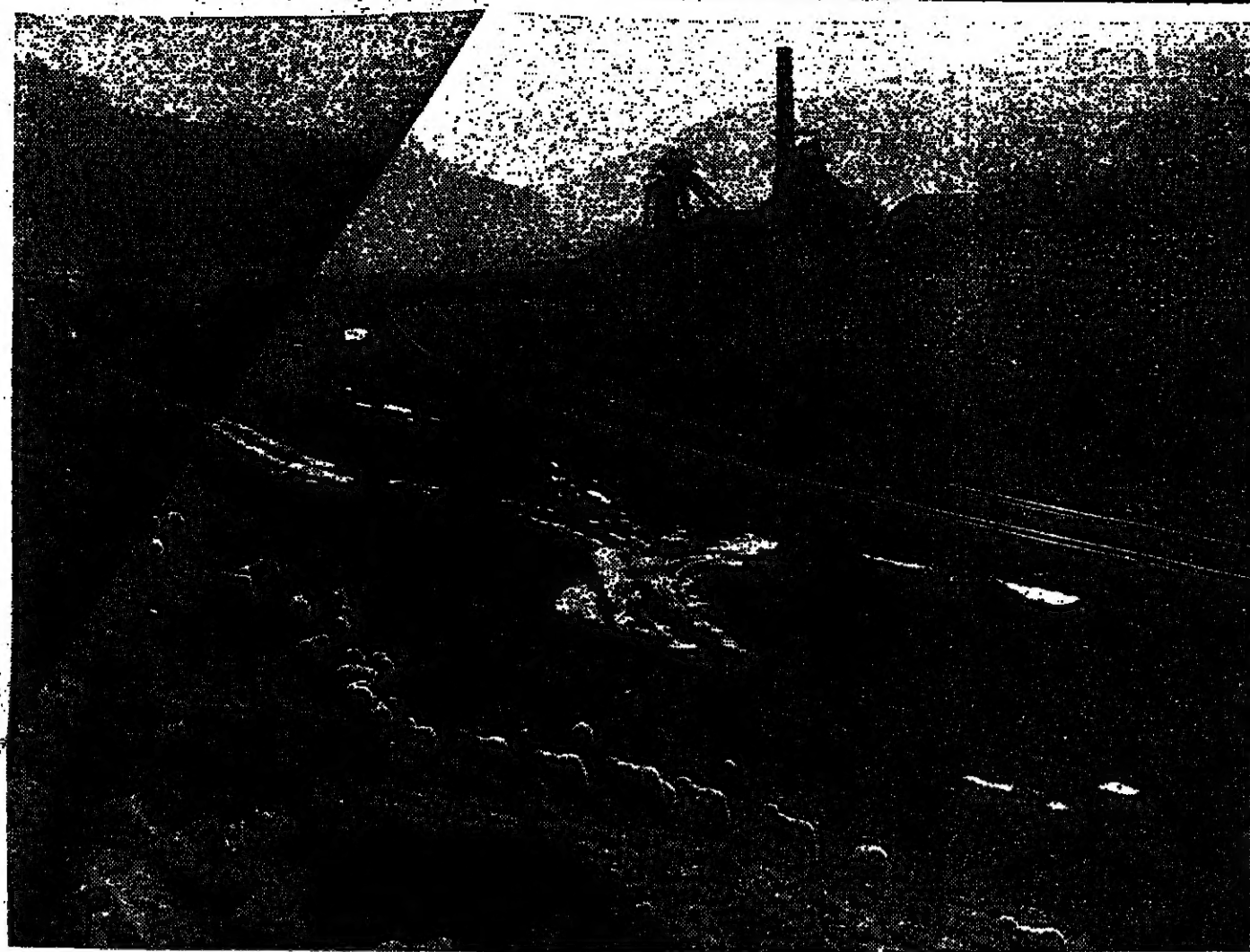
While the Prime Minister is said to be determined to have no part in the meetings herself, she made sure that Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, who was in a meeting with her at No 10 Downing Street when the renewed request from the miners came through, responded instantly.

It seemed clear from alligator reactions in Whitehall that Mrs Thatcher had been irritated by the clamour of criticism, which she saw as alarmism, that had descended on her head from such usually friendly news papers as the Daily Mail.

The Government was clearly annoyed that any thought it had of defusing that alarmism over numbers of pit closures and jobs lost had gone sour before today's planned disclosure by the National Coal Board of the facts. Many politicians find it extraordinary that the Government had been incapable of announcing the facts and so perhaps heading off a strike in South Wales. It being officially stated that the coal board had to sell its own men of the plans first and in the meantime ride the storm of false speculation.

Last Thursday Mrs Thatcher gave the Commons and the country the "clear" impression that she would not call a tripartite meeting of that sort. It was being said that she, and the Leader of the Opposition in challenging her, might have forgotten that the mechanism was in use and did not have to be reconstructed.

The actual exchange suggests that on this occasion Mr Michael Foot knew the facts well and that the Prime Minister was being defiant first, and reflecting later.



All quiet in the Rhondda Valley yesterday as the miners of South Wales continued their strike.

Photograph by Brian Harris

Moderate coalfield thinks national strike of several weeks is almost inevitable

From Richard Ford
Bestwood, Nottinghamshire

The National Coal Board's plan for closing pits and making miners redundant continues to attract strong opposition from traditionally moderate coalfields.

Even in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, which has escaped lightly, there is a growing expectation among miners that a national strike is almost inevitable, and that it will last several weeks.

The momentum is such that many men feel it will be im-

possible to stop and at the same time, there is a growing feeling that the National Union of Miners (NUM) must make a stand.

Many miners suspect that traditionally moderate coalfields are feeling the effects of the board's proposals "much" less than militant areas, and they see that as an attempt to split the union.

Mr Ray Chadburn, Nottinghamshire area president, said yesterday, after hearing the board's proposals for coal "would cut this proposal of coal would be the next two years.

the board is playing it very cagey. If they can be seen to placate the moderate areas, then they, the moderates, will not support militant areas."

He thought the board might be trying to split the union by not cutting back as it originally intended in moderate areas.

Earlier, he had met board officials at Bestwood to be told that New Hockley pit, employing 660 men, will close by August, as announced last year, and that Babbington will merge with Hockley colliery during the next two years.

Mr Chadburn described the merger as "a polite way" of closing Babbington. The board said the pit will lose £5m by the end of this financial year, and Hockley £1.5m. The south Nottingham area will lose £4m despite increased productivity.

Over two years, a thousand miners in the area will have to transfer to other pits or leave the industry. Mr Donald Davies, area director, pledged after unveiling the proposals that no miners would be made redundant as a result of the closure and merger.

This is one fight we must win, lodge chairman says

Pit where the men felt they dare not wait to hear the union line

From Tim Jones
Maesteg

The men of Coedcannol colliery who started the miners' challenge to the National Coal Board's pit closure programme explained yesterday why they felt they could not wait for the polite politicking of Mr Joseph Gormley, their national president, in their battle to save jobs.

The 384 miners whose pit at the top of the Llynfi Valley, near Maesteg, has been condemned, broke ranks and union discipline when they started an unofficial strike on Saturday, four days before the planned delegate area conference which was to have discussed the union's official line.

They were followed by the men at Brynlliw colliery, and the South Wales miners' leadership, faced with the prospect of a revolt, they could not control, hastily brought the conference forward to Monday and announced that the entire coalfield would come to a standstill.

According to Mr Malcolm Beck, the lodge chairman at Coedcannol, the coal board succeeded in turning his men overnight from a moderate workforce into a militant one. "Traditionally we have been a reasonable workforce, but after the treatment we have had all trust between us and the board has gone", he said.

Last Thursday the miners at the pit had some cause to celebrate for two senior officials from the area coal board visited the mine and congratulated the men on opening up a new face two weeks ahead of schedule.

The new seam represented an investment of £1.5m and the men felt confident that their jobs were secure.

"When the announcement was made the very next day that we were to close we felt betrayed", Mr Beck said.

He was "deeply suspicious" of coal board figures that referred to the quality of the coal mined at the pit. "At first they said it was only 32 per cent saleable and gradually that figure has changed to 60 per cent."

Coedcannol miners, with an average age of 39, make up one of the youngest workforces in the coalfield and the prospects of their finding alternative work are bleak.

At first glance the new jobcentre, which opened just two weeks ago, offers hope for it displays cards advertising scores of jobs. Sadly, however, only a handful are for local employment and the others offer positions in Corby, Milton Keynes, Gloucester, and other distant towns. There are 16 job offers from Saudi Arabia—more than there are available for men in the town or surrounding districts.

Llynfi power station, once a big employer of men in the valley, closed about five years ago and there were other severe job losses when the men who used to travel to Port Talbot lost their posts under the British Steel Corporation's closure proposals.

Lewis Edwards, which employed many women making clothes, closed recently and the Revlon factory is on a three-day week with no certainty that that reduced rate of production can be maintained.

Faced with the continuing recession, the men at Coedcannol know that if their pit, which will be 100 years old next year, closes, many of them will never work again. "This is one fight we must win", Mr Beck said.

The Coal Board said it invested in Coedcannol to give the men a chance to prove the pit was viable. "Unfortunately the new face proved to have a very high ash content and the pit was therefore a hopeless economic case", an official said.

On present estimates, the South Wales coalfield will lose £100m next year. That means that it will consume a quarter of the total money available to the board for less than a twelfth of the production.

Howell emphasis on conciliation

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

As MPs on both sides of the House yesterday pressed home to Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, the dangers of allowing matters to take their course without government intervention, he emphasized the new mood of conciliation.

The implication of the words both of the Prime Minister and Mr Howell was that the Government was now ready to put as much money as possible into the future of coal.

Following the Prime Minister's lead, Mr Howell also placed great emphasis on the inaccuracy of the closure and redundancy figures being rumoured. The coal board had not spoken of 50 closures, as was being suggested.

Mr Howell said that sort of talk was causing unnecessary fears; the final figure would turn out to be considerably below what was being bandied about.

that the Government was particularly anxious that extra money should go to the pits for future development. Investment this year would be about £800m, the greater part supplied by the taxpayers.

Pointing out that pit closures had been going on for a number of years, eight a year over the last decade and 40 a year in the previous decade, Mrs Thatcher said that the Government had honoured the plans for coal and wanted to put as much money as possible into the future of coal.

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Mr Howell said that sort of talk was causing unnecessary fears; the final figure would turn out to be considerably below what was being bandied about.

The Secretary of State emphasized that pit closures were inevitable and predictable but must be carried through in a sensible way with sympathetic understanding of the difficulties, particularly over redundancies.

With many MPs on the Conservative benches highly critical of the tactics of the coal board and the way in which the board had handled the issue, Mr Howell pointed out that the proposals for coal "would fall this year and were only 3 per cent of the total for British users. Britain in 1981 was expected to be a net exporter of coal."

The NCB, he said, had known all along that it faced a long term need for closures of uneconomic pits and the figures were brought forward in one lump, because that had been asked for by the National Union of Miners so that they could be studied centrally.

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Trouble at marches averted by luck, MPs are told

By Frances Gibb

Serious public disorder at marches and demonstrations has been averted so far because the police have been lucky in obtaining information, a Commons committee on the Greater Manchester Bill was told yesterday.

Mr John Hugill, QC, for the Greater Manchester Council, the promoters of the Bill, said that civil order should not depend on the possibility of courteous information about the time and place of marches being passed to the police.

A clause seeks to introduce requirement that organizers of marches must give 72 hours' notice to the police, or as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Similar clauses are contained in Bills pending from Kent and East Sussex county councils and the Government's Green Paper on public order, which recommends notice of five days or more.

Mr Hugill was opening the opposed Bill "hearing before our members of Parliament under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Hamilton, Conservative MP for Salisbury."

The clause, whose key supporter is Mr James Anderson, chief Constable of Greater

Manchester, is opposed by 16 MPs and several bodies, including the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Mr Anderson, called yesterday as chief witness for the council, said that when the police were not notified they sometimes had to muster at very short notice from other divisions. It was not unusual for two to three thousand officers to be needed. Even from a seven-thousand strong force such as Manchester's, that needed considerable planning.

Mr Anderson, called yesterday as chief witness for the council, said that when the police were not notified they sometimes had to muster at very short notice from other divisions. It was not unusual for two to three thousand officers to be needed. Even from a seven-thousand strong force such as Manchester's, that needed considerable planning.

Mr Anderson said that 72 hours' notice to be given but that was amended to 72 hours in the committee hearing in the House of Lords. The Commons committee has power to amend the clause further or reject it.

Under the clause it would become a criminal offence, liable to a fine up to £200, not to give 72 hours' notice, or as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Opponents argue that the measure is restrictive and unnecessary as 80 per cent of organizations already give such notice.

Criticisms fail to deflect the Paisley campaign

From David Nicholson-Lord
Belfast

The Rev Ian Paisley refused yesterday to be deflected from his Carson trail of "loyalist" rallies in opposition to the Anglo-Irish summit last December. He discounted criticisms from Lord Carson's son and Dr H. Montgomery Hyde, Lord Carson's official biographer.

Mr Edward Carson, Lord Carson's surviving son, yesterday described Mr Paisley's actions as a "masquerade" and said the situation now could not be compared with that before the First World War when his father organized the mass campaign of opposition to home rule. Mr Paisley had "no justification for what he is doing."

His criticisms came after a letter to The Times from Dr Hyde, who said that Mr Paisley was doing the name of Lord Carson a grave disservice. Dr Hyde added yesterday that Mr Paisley used vulgar and offensive language about Roman Catholics, which Lord Carson would never do.

Mr Paisley's response was an immediate statement saying the criticisms would not affect his Democratic Unionist Party's "determined campaign of resistance" to the Dublin talks.

Walker plea for end to fish protest

By Jacob Ecclestone

Mr Peter Walker, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, appealed yesterday for an end to the blockade of ports by fishermen protesting at the mping of cheap foreign fish. He told leaders of the fishing industry at a meeting in London that the blockades are damaging the industry's use and putting pressure on one.

After the talks in Brussels a week, at which the Council Fisheries Ministers of the EC failed to reach agreement, Mr Walker invited representatives of the various fishing organizations to put to him his analysis of the industry's uncial position and their suggestions for dealing with cheap illegal imports of fish.

It was agreed yesterday that joint working party should set up under the chairmanship of Mr William Jackson, an official at the Department of Agriculture, to investigate allegations of unfair imports.

Written submissions were put to Mr Walker yesterday on the financial state of the industry, and more evidence of unfair and illegal imports will be given to the committee when it meets next week.

Mr Walker described the meeting as constructive. "As far as the Government is concerned, we are not delaying, because we were the ones who brought forward the review", he said.

Mr Neil Parkes, president of the British Fishing Federation, was similarly pleased by the talks while emphasizing that the industry needed a quick decision on the level of financial support it could expect from the Government.

Although figures were not discussed at the meeting, it was thought that the Government will be asked for about £100m over the next year, of which the Scottish Fishermen's Federation will be seeking about £54m. Tighter controls: Stricter measures to restrict the shipping of fish caught in British waters to factory vessels were under consideration. Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, told MPs yesterday (the Press Association reports).

The practice, known as "Klondyke", has prompted protests from MPs of all parties because the operation, usually involving East European factory ships anchored offshore, bypasses the home-based fish processing industry.

EEC pressure, page 5
Fisherman's view, page 19

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HOME NEWS

US agreement to buy Rapier in £140m deal boosts hope of more missile export orders

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The United States Air Force has agreed a £140m purchase of Britain's Rapier low-level anti-aircraft missile to defend its main air bases in this country.

British Aerospace Dynamics can start work on the 28 missile launchers and four trainers which will enter service with the USAF over the next four years.

The deal is unique in that the missiles, equipped with blindfire all-weather radar, will be manned by more than 300

members of the RAF Regiment, which will expand its recruiting for that purpose.

The reciprocal arrangement was first officially outlined last July when the Government presented the deal as a transatlantic offer against Britain's purchase of the Trident nuclear missile.

Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, chairman of British Aerospace Dynamics, described the deal as a "codswallop" and said the negotiations over Rapier were begun long before Trident, and had proceeded independently.

The completion of the sale to the Americans will not only help to secure jobs at British Aerospace in Stevenage and Bristol but will boost the chances of further export orders.

The missile has made £1,150m for its makers, through orders from the British Army and the RAF, and from Australia, Brunei, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Iran, Zambia and, most recently, Switzerland.

The USAF is thought to be interested in acquiring about 14 more launchers eventually if it can find the money.

Other countries which are assessing the British weapon against other overseas competitors include Ecuador, Greece, Egypt, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea, Spain and Turkey, while the British Army is hoping to scrape up the money to buy nearly 50 units of Tracked Rapier, the mounted version originally ordered by the late Shah of Iran and cancelled after his downfall.

Meanwhile British Aerospace are working on an improved version of the weapon, which it is said can remain effective until beyond the year 2000.

Defence exceeds cash limits by £260m

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

In spite of the devotion to cash limits of Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, his department has for the second time in 1980-81, overspent its limit, this time by £260m.

Announcing that in the Commons yesterday, Mr Nott said that the overspending would be reflected in a supplementary estimate which would be presented today. Mr Nott is encountering the same difficulties as his predecessor, Mr Francis Pym, now Leader of the House, who last August announced that the cash limits would be exceeded by £254m.

Mr Pym and his department were then taken to task by Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who said that no departments should consider themselves exempt from the limits and that the overspend would be deducted from the next year's expenditure limits.

Mr Pym later stated in the Commons, with the evident approval of many Tory MPs, that his view, which was not that of his Cabinet colleagues, was that defence should be protected from cash limits restraints.

Various cuts have since been announced in the defence costs in an attempt to reduce expenditure but Mr Nott's announcement yesterday shows that those have not been fully effective.

He told the House that the

usual practice was that overspending should be offset by a corresponding reduction in the following year. However, the financial year for the defence budget would not be known for some time and the position would be reviewed then. He was continuing to take steps to restrain expenditure.

To criticism from the opposition benches, Mr Nott said that the country must afford the present level of defence expenditure because Britain was faced with a threat to its freedom and liberty.

Earlier, answering another question, Mr Nott said there were limits to the resources of this country and cash limits was a system which helped the United Kingdom to keep within those resources.

He supported a system of cash limits, defence expenditure was increasing in real terms and was going up faster than any other programme.

Our Defence Correspondent writes: Estimates of the amount by which the Ministry of Defence will have overspent at the end of this financial year have varied between £260m and £400m. The Ministry has blamed the recession, which has prompted companies to complete defence contracts and submit their bills more quickly than before.

To allow for a reduction in next year's cash limits, the services are being pressed to volunteer still more stringent economies in 1981-82.

Parliamentary report, page 9

Gloom in Armed Forces as fuel economies are continued to next year

By Our Defence Correspondent

Fuel economies which were ordered five months ago for the Armed Forces, are to be continued throughout the next financial year, with consequent cuts in travel and training.

Whitehall sources said last night that operational effectiveness would not be lowered.

The fuel reductions formed the bulk of a £100m saving package imposed last September as the Ministry of Defence struggled to pay its bills within the Treasury's cash limits.

The services are gloomily viewing the prospect of a further 12 months of restricted movement while the ministry copes with the financial penalties of this year's overspending.

The Royal Navy, which had to withdraw two frigates from a Nato exercise last autumn to help meet a 30 per cent cut in its fuel allocation, will have to adjust its plans to meet a 20 per cent reduction until April 1982.

The RAF is cutting the fuel allocation to its transport fleet by a quarter and its fast-front-line jet aircraft by 16 per cent. The reductions in flying time will be felt most acutely by the heavy fuel burners like the VC-10 transports and the Vulcan bomber squadrons.

Hercules transports and Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft, which help to protect Britain's North Sea oilfields, will also be significantly affected.

The reductions will mean that pilots will be flying only about

17 hours a month, as opposed to 22 hours previously, which is not much above Nato minimum requirement.

Flying hours for new pilots in training will not be affected because the RAF is still more than 300 pilots short and is likely to remain so for some years. It takes about three years to train a pilot and there is always an overflow of trained men reach the end of their engagements.

The Ministry of Defence is insisting that flight safety standards will not be impaired. Safety records improved in the past two years, it says, from an accident rate of 0.52 per cent for every 10,000 flying hours in 1979 to 0.47 per cent in 1980.

The RAF has been trying to save money by sending troops and their families to Hong Kong by commercial jets instead of by weekly flights by RAF VC-10s.

The Army is also imposing restrictions on fuel consumption. Its campaign is less than the other two services and it is having to find other savings as well.

The RAF's Red Arrows demonstration team is likely to tour the Middle East next month at the invitation of the Kuwaiti, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

The tour was cancelled last year because of the Gulf war. It will provide an opportunity for Britain to display the Hawk aircraft in the hope of winning orders.

£4,250 damages for copying music

School choirs and other amateur music groups were warned yesterday that they are breaking the law by copying sheet music.

The practice is widespread and writers and composers are losing much money, the Music Publishers' Association said after a High Court settlement.

Oakham, Leicestershire, one of Britain's oldest public schools, who were said to have been copying music for years, for convenience, face a bill for £4,250 damages and costs.

They agreed to pay the amount in settlement of an action against them by Novello & Co, music publishers, and the

Music Publishers' Association. The settlement terms also included undertakings by the school not to infringe copyright or reproduce sheet music by photographic or other processes without the copyright holders' consent.

Mr Peter Bowsher, QC, for the music publishers, told Mr Justice Gouding that the damages were based on "the agreed flagrancy of the infringement".

Counsel added: "Music publishers wish to make it clear that this copying of sheet music must not continue in schools in breach of the agreed code of fair practice. The defendants now recognize that the copying

which has been done at the school is indefensible.

The trustees have been most cooperative after service of the proceedings on them. A total of 15,000 sheets of infringing copies had been handed over.

The musical works involved were all Christmas carols. They were in an infringing book of carols sent to the publishers by an anonymous lecturer.

Mr David Kirchin, for the school, said Oakham regretted most sincerely that cause was given for the action. The copying was more for convenience and expedience than through any deliberate intent to deprive the copy-holders

Cambridge don's post is extended

By a Staff Reporter

Dr Colin McCabe, the lecturer in the centre of the dispute in the Cambridge University English faculty has had his teaching fellowship at King's College extended for a further year.

The college decided to extend the contract, which involves giving tutorials for about 10 hours a week, because it feels that he has had a "raw deal" from the university. He will be paid on the full lecturer's scale of £8,500 until September 1982, £17,280 thereafter.

In December the English faculty appointments committee decided not to promote Dr McCabe to the post of university lecturer next September at the end of his five-year contract.

The promotion had been recommended by the faculty board. The committee's decision, which has provoked a controversy about the value of structuralism in the study of English, is under examination by a sub-committee of the university's general board of the faculties.

The committee is expected to report by the end of March. Dr Timothy Leggatt, senior tutor of King's College, said yesterday: "We do not seek to see a college to right the wrongs that our members may feel they have suffered at the hands of a university department, but we do feel Dr McCabe has had a raw deal."

Dr McCabe would have known last February that he was about to embark on his final year in the English faculty and would have had 16 months to find an alternative job. As it did not know until December that he would be going in September.

"As decent employers, we felt that he should be given extra time so that he can look for another job. We originally thought that he would be upgraded and so we had counted on having his services for the coming academic year." Dr McCabe refused to comment yesterday.

Eight million offences estimated yearly

By Martin Huckerby

The success of the Music Publishers' Association in gaining the damages from Oakham School represents another stage in its campaign to end the widespread illegal copying of music.

The association estimates that each year about eight million copies of copyright music and written material have been made unlawfully in Britain's schools, largely

because the schools are short of money. Based on a survey carried out in Scotland, it also estimates that three-fifths of the material copied is sheet music.

Mr Johnson Dyer, of the association, said that last year it had won a similar case against the Wolverhampton education authority and had then issued a warning that, if anyone failed to keep within the code of fair practice agreed

with the music user organizations in 1979, the association would have to demonstrate that infringement was not worth the consequences.

When it received the copies of carols made at Oakham it had pressed for exemplary damages. Mr Dyer said that the association was not fighting on behalf of deceased and defunct composers. Many of the carols were written by living composers.

Postal ballot to be conducted on national park

By Our Planning Reporter

About 300,000 people in south-west Scotland are to be asked whether they would like to see the Galloway hills designated as the country's first national park.

A postal ballot is being conducted by the Scottish Conservation Society with financial help from an anonymous donor.

The society believes that the area is under threat from development, not least from a proposal to drill test boreholes for the possible future dumping of nuclear waste. The result of a public inquiry into the drilling application is expected next month.

EEC male midwife rule worries royal college

By Lucy Hodges

The Royal College of Midwives is anxious about an EEC directive which means that men will have to be allowed to train and practise freely as midwives by 1983.

At present discussions with the Department of Health and Social Security are awaiting the results of research at the two United Kingdom hospitals where men are allowed to train and practise as midwives. The college's reservation stems from the medical convention that male midwives are not allowed to examine their patients in the same way as women midwives. They have to be chaperoned much of the

time, which is expensive, to protect them from charges of assault.

Miss Ann Ryder, the college's professional officer, questioned whether male midwives could practise on their own in wards where they would be dealing with "highly emotional patients" who might be having difficulties with, say, breastfeeding.

"We accept the fact that male midwives are going to come but we have reservations about their role," she said. Midwives would be divided into those able to undertake all the work and those who would be specialized.

Powell attack on nationality Bill

By Philip Webster

Parliamentary Staff

Mr Enoch Powell, arguing yesterday against the nationality Bill's provision that nationality can be passed to children by their mothers, said that the discrimination functions between the sexes had been the reason why hitherto it could be transmitted only through the male line.

Moving an amendment during the Bill's Commons committee stage to restore that position, Mr Powell, Official Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, said that nationality in the last resort was tested by fighting. A man's nation was the nation for which he would fight and his nationality was the expression of his allegiance.

One of the essential differentiations of function between man and woman was that between fighting on the one hand and the preservation and creation of life on the other. "The two sexes are deeply dif-

ferentiated in accordance with those two functions."

Mr Powell said the absurdities that had clustered around the recent concern with sex discrimination verged on the boundary line where the harmlessly absurd became harmful and dangerous.

An opposition amendment, which had been debated for more than six hours at yesterday's and the previous two sittings of the committee, designed to reestablish the principle of the right of automatic citizenship for every child born in the United Kingdom, was rejected by 12 votes to nine.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, said that the Government was at an early stage of considering what changes would be necessary in the immigration rules following the passage of the Bill. Awareness of Bill: Non-white people are almost twice as aware as whites of the nation-

ality Bill, according to a public opinion poll commissioned by the Commission for Racial Equality (Lucy Hodges writes).

Ethnic minorities are also far more worried than whites that the Bill is unfair and will treat some people better than others, the survey conducted by the Opinion Research Centre says.

The results are extracts from a study of attitudes to race relations being carried out by the commission. The research was done before the Government's amendments to clauses 1 and 2 were announced.

It involved a random sample of 1,579 people, 506 of whom were from ethnic minorities.

When asked if they thought the new Bill would be equally fair to white and coloured people or whether it would treat some people better than others, 40 per cent of the whites and 77 per cent of the ethnic minorities said it would treat some people better than others.

Letters, page 15



Princess Anne, elected yesterday as Chancellor of London University, had an engagement at the prizegiving of a weaving and embroidery competition at Debenham's, Oxford Street.

In brief
Council to put up rates by 180%

Bassetlaw District Council in north Nottinghamshire is to be asked by its finance committee to raise its rates by 180 per cent from 12.5p to 35p in the pound.

Balloon money sought

Julian Nott, aged 36, from London, who holds the world ballooning altitude record, and Judith Chisholm, aged 29, from Buckinghamshire, a record-breaking aviator, are seeking £250,000 in sponsorship to join the race to be the first to travel round the world non-stop in a balloon.

Irish history exemption

Mr Albert Reynolds, the Irish Republic's Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, last night signed an order specifically excluding the series, Ireland, a Television History, from the provisions of the republic's broadcasting Act which prohibits the showing of interviews with the Provisional IRA.

Bail for Miss Faithfull

Marianne Faithfull, the singer, and Ian Briarley, her husband, the guitarist, were committed at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday on unconditional bail for trial at Inner London Crown Court on charges of rape.

Bill for empty flats

The London Borough of Islington has been spending £50,000 a year on heating empty council flats. Officials said it prevented deterioration of the fabric but the housing committee has ordered the practice to end.

Milkman of the year

Alan Dornely, aged 28, from Sutton Coldfield, has won the National Dairy Council's 1981 award for personality milkman of the year. He also received a cash award.

Mary Rose appeal

The Prince of Wales urged businessmen in the City of London last night to respond to a £2m appeal to help to raise the wreck of Henry VIII's flagship the Mary Rose from the Solent.

House design awards

New Housing Design Awards are to replace those of the Department of the Environment and the National House Building Council.

Ratepayers issue writ against councillors

By Ian Bradley

A writ is to be served today on 30 councillors in the London Borough of Camden and on the council alleging "overspending and deliberate disregard of duty."

The writ, issued by members of the Camden Ratepayers Association, states that the councillors "have been spending according to certain, high-handed principles and policies which bear no relation to their duties to the ratepayers."

Miss Diana Yach, the association's press secretary, said yesterday: "We are particularly concerned about the supplementary rate of 6p which was levied in December. Councilors have a duty to account to the ratepayers."

The association is holding a meeting tonight in Friends Hall, Euston Road, London, at which Camden ratepayers will be recommended to pay their rates to the council but to designate that the money be put into a trust account. They will be told to write "ratepayers' account" on their cheques.

The association believes that if councillors use trust money unwisely they will place themselves at risk in law.

In a separate move yesterday, employees of Camden council who are members of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) voted two to one for a series of one-day strikes.

About 800 of the 2,500 NUPE members employed by the council attended a mass meeting called to protest against reductions in staffing, rate increases and the Government's demand for repayment of £2m paid in supplementary wages to council workers.

They voted for a one-day strike on March 4 to be followed by selective lightning strikes.

Manchester protest over block grant

From John Chatteris, Manchester

The Prime Minister was asked yesterday to receive a delegation from Manchester to discuss the city's economic and social difficulties.

Mr David Hogg, MP, representing all but one of the city constituencies, signed a letter to Mrs Margaret Thatcher asking her to meet a delegation soon. They would like to meet Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry.

The Labour-controlled city council, whose leaders are resisting a left-wing threat to their authority, is trying to

organize a mass lobby of Parliament.

Their chief complaint is that Manchester is suffering unfairly from the decision to deprive it of assisted area status from August 1982, and from the block grant system which would call for a cut in spending of £17.5m in the next financial year or a substantial increase in rate to the Government states that the block grant arrangement is arbitrary and unjust and asks for more funds for the joint inner city partnership with Salford and Trafford.

It states that the number of manufacturing jobs in the city fell from 63,000 in 1961 to less

than 28,000 in 1976 and the loss continues; that in the past two years unemployment has risen from 9 per cent to 14 per cent, not on a crisis level but on a steady basis; that 2,000 people are unemployed in the city.

It predicts that government policies would mean a possible rate increase of 45.2 per cent although the council is working to reduce this figure, coming in with a reduction of 3 per cent for Cheshire, 5 per cent for Warrington and 10 per cent for Wigan.

It also points out that Manchester's antiquated sewage system is collapsing and will get steadily worse because of government restrictions on spending by the North-West Water Authority.

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Disabled to see flower show on private day

By Pat Healy

The Royal Horticultural Society bowed to pressure yesterday and agreed that disabled people will, after all, be allowed into Chelsea flower show on the private viewing day, the Monday. The numbers will be limited, however, and they will be chosen by ballot.

The decision overtook a potential protest at the society's annual meeting in London yesterday by members who had been pressing for visiting facilities before the public days as a gesture to the International Year of Disabled People. Mrs Eileen Aston, a fellow of the society and wife of the chairman of the international year's British committee, said she was delighted at the announcement.

The main aim of the year, Mrs Aston said, was to try to integrate disabled people into society as much as possible. But there were times when a helping hand was necessary and appropriate.

Before making the announcement, Lord Abernethy, president of the society, emphasized the difficulties of having disabled people in the grounds of the Chelsea show while a number of judges were still there. The show was open to disabled people on all the other days, he said, and the society welcomed them.

It pointed out that the society had just received a award from Guildford Borough Council for the facilities at Wisley gardens, and that award had been made before the decision to make entry free for disabled people.

The original decision not to let disabled people in on the Monday had nothing to do with the traditional visit then to the Royal Family, Lord Abernethy said. But he had been asked by Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled, to allow 20 disabled people in wheelchairs, to be chosen by ballot, to visit the show on that day.

The society was happy to meet any reasonable request from the Government and it would accept that one. It would not be practicable to offer facilities to a large number of disabled people. Asked by a society member why he was fixing the number at 20, rather than a larger number, Lord Abernethy said there would be flexibility.

The limit would not necessarily be 20, but the number who could be accommodated in personally guided tours. The details had not yet been worked out.

The annual meeting unanimously endorsed on a show of hands the society's action in opposing plans to reopen Wisley airport. Lord Abernethy, who made his maiden speech last 27 years in the Lords on the issue, said the society would seek an injunction to prevent the reopening of the airport if there was an appeal.

RHS show, page 16

The Open Space Theatre closes with £32,296 loss

An Arts Council decision to withdraw its grant meant that the Open Space Theatre must close, a creditors' meeting was told yesterday.

The theatre, which was operated by Camden Playhouse Productions, had debts of £32,296 and assets of £354.

The meeting, held in the office of London of Mr Roy Woodman, assistant official receiver, heard that the company promoted plays that were not necessarily commercial.

Mr Charles Marowitz, the only director still in office, told Mr Woodman that the company had depended on Arts Council grants to pay the annual deficit. Difficulties arose when the grant was cut last year and when the company was told it would get nothing in 1981, trading ceased.

Creditors left the matter with the Official Receiver as liquidator.

Inventive theatre: The Open Space Theatre, founded in 1968 by Mr Marowitz and Thekla Holt, who now runs the Round House, has been a most inventive experimental theatre (four Theatre Reporter writes).

It played an important part in the development of fringe theatre, matching an intelligent choice of new work with such adaptations of the classics as Marowitz's versions of *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*.

Rarely free from controversy, especially on the subject of money, the Open Space has had increasing difficulties in the past few years. It lost its original home in Tottenham Court Road, and then its temporary premises in Euston Road, becoming a troupe of wander-

Diamond dealers jailed for faking £775,894 robbery

Two Hazon Garden diamond merchants were each jailed for five years yesterday for staging a fake robbery in the hope of gaining more than £1m.

Mr Wilfred Hogg, aged 37, was found in Clerkenwell, London, early on February 11 last year with his hands and feet tied, and with a minor facial injury, Mr Michael Corkery, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Hogg, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, told detectives that he had been robbed of jewels worth £775,894 by armed men as he left his office to go on a sales trip to Saudi Arabia.

Mr Corkery said that Mr Hogg and Mr John Heath, aged 35, of Fulmer, Buckinghamshire, planned to claim the £775,894 dishonestly from a Lloyds underwriter and later dispose of the stones.

He read a statement by Mr

Heath saying they had agreed to pay two men "on the fringe of the criminal world" £250,000 to stage the fake robbery.

Both men pleaded guilty conspiring to "defraud Lloyds underwriters by submitting fraudulent claim alleging a robbery of jewels, diamonds and other items which were lost in an armed robbery."

Their plea of not guilty stealing the stones was accepted by the prosecution.

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ME NEWS

Prison trial judge tells press that they deserve boiling in oil

Our Correspondent writes: Justice Michael Davies told the press at Winchester Crown Court yesterday that the trial of Miss Rosie the yachtswoman, and Miss Tracey Stamp, and the press deserved a punishment, and that they deserved to be boiled in oil.

After reminding the jury that he had warned them at the outset of the trial to avoid reading about the case or listening to it on television or radio, he said: "I am very disappointed with the press. They cannot stick to what is said exactly in court. If there are any more inaccuracies then I shall take action. The aim of the law is very long."

At the end of Mr Vincent's evidence the judge said he would release him on condition that he did not speak to the press or television during the trial.

He added: "I am not going to have interviews with you splashed all over the papers. In this country we have trial by judge and jury, not trial by the newspapers or television."

Mr Vincent had earlier told the jury that he was violently ill for weeks while living with the two women in West Road, Woolston, Southampton. On the occasion, in September 1978, Miss Stamp and Miss Swale had both prepared the dinner.

He continued: "The portions looked similar so I picked up one of the plates and went into the lounge to watch television. The other two picked up their meals and we all ate together. I did not suffer any illness, but Tracey did. She had all the symptoms I had suffered."

He later told a friend: "I thought that one of them had eaten the wrong dinner, and perhaps they were poisoning me."

Cross-examined by Mr Anthony Palmer, QC, for Miss Stamp, Mr Vincent said he had always been amazed at the care the two women gave him when he was ill.

He added: "It was for that reason I could not have thought two people who were always so nice, so kindly, could be poisoning me."

Once, he said, Miss Stamp told him she had cast a spell and made him ill.

Miss Stamp and Miss Swale both deny poisoning Mr Vincent; attempting to pervert the course of justice by fabricating evidence; and perjury. They now live at Chapel Cottage Penford, Dyfed.

The trial continues today.



Mr James Atwood, a stone carver employed by the Department of the Environment, busy in his workshop in Horsesherry Road, London, preparing gargoyles for a tower at Windsor Castle.

WEST EUROPE

Britain resists EEC pressure to approve Canadian fishing deal

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Feb 17

Britain today stood firm in its refusal to approve new fisheries agreements between the EEC, Canada and the Faroes despite pleas from West Germany and other member states.

At a meeting of EEC foreign ministers, Sir Ian Gilmour, the British ambassador in Brussels, Lord Privy Seal, repeated the long-standing British position that there could be no deals with outside countries until Community states had settled their dispute over internal fisheries policy.

The matter was put on today's agenda at the request of the Germans, whose fishermen would expect to catch the bulk of the 14,500 tonnes of fish (mainly cod) that would be reserved for EEC trawlers off Labrador under the Canadian agreement.

Herr Klaus von Dohnanyi, the West German junior Foreign Minister, said a decision was urgent because from the end of this month the ice-floes would start to break up and drifting icebergs would make fishing in Canadian waters increasingly dangerous.

Sir Ian was not moved by these arguments. However, he made the point that the agreement with Ottawa would cut tariffs on exports of Canadian frozen cod fillets to the EEC in return for opening Canadian waters to Community boats, and most of these exports would end up on the already depressed British market.

Herr von Dohnanyi produced figures to show that the Canadian exports to Britain would not amount to more than 1,540 tonnes, barely 1 per cent of total British seafood imports. It was clear, he said, that the British were on the Canada agreement was "political and psychological".

Sir Ian accepted that the volume of Canadian imports might not be enormous, but it would be "the straw that broke the camel's back" for British fishermen who were already up in arms over competition from cheap imports.

Moreover, it had always been understood, Sir Ian maintained, that the Canada deal could be only part of an overall fisheries settlement which included new measures to give EEC fishermen better protection against cut-price imports.

Sir Ian indicated later that Britain did not see any objection to ratification of a fisheries agreement with Spain which was reached between Spanish officials and the European Commission this morning.

This will license 142 Spanish boats to catch 10,500 tonnes of hake in EEC (mainly French) waters over the coming year—about 11 per cent less than the Spanish catch last year.

Gunmen kill hospital director in Milan

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 17

Gunmen today shot and killed Dr Luigi Maragoni, aged 44, medical director of Milan's general hospital, as he left his home to go to work.

An anonymous telephone caller later claimed responsibility for the murder in the name of the Red Brigades terrorist movement of the extreme left.

Dr Maragoni was the third victim of terrorists this year, after the killings of two carabinieri at Padua on February 6.

Plain clothes policemen arrived on the scene in time to engage the murderers in a gunfight and they believe they wounded one of them before the four escaped in a stolen car.

The dead man's family said he had received so many threats to his life by telephone that he had changed the number. He had also received threatening letters.

Hospital accusation: Police said Dr Maragoni died 20 minutes after reaching hospital from three bullet wounds in the head and one in the left arm (UPI reports from Milan).

The Red Brigades accuse hospital personnel of collaborating with the Government in its struggle against terrorism.

Communist hecklers break up TV debate

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 17

Militants of the communist-led trade union organization CGT last night gatecrashed a French television debate on the plight of youths unable to find work, and brought it to a halt.

Thirty-three young people of different political persuasions (including two members of the Communist youth organization) were fitted in a live programme held in a large hall against a backdrop of a "commando operation" of seven, including a minister, a capitalist, a doctor, the captain of a football team, a university rector, and a trade unionist, M Edmond Maire, the secretary-general of the leftist CGPT.

The Communists had protested against the fact that M Georges Seguy, the CGT leader, was not on the panel, and demanded that M Charles Fiterman, a leading member of the Communist hierarchy, should be included. This was refused.

The organizers wanted to break away from the convention that if the CGT speaks for two minutes, the CGT must do so too. But the young activists of the Communist-dominated trade union were not going to allow M Maire to steal the show and speak for organized labour.

Things had started rather well. The young people pulled no punches. They opened fire on unemployment, which affects 700,000 of their number.

One of them, interrupted M Francois Dollé, the president of the company L'Oréal, who was quoting Disraeli and asked: "Your firm made a profit of 350m francs (£32m). What are you going about hiring young people? In Saint-Denis, where I live, you female employees are paid 3,000 francs a month. Part of your goods are produced abroad."

His question was punctuated by cheers. But at that point, about 100 youngsters in the gallery began chanting "The floor to the CGT", unfurled banners and threw handfuls of leaflets into the stalls. They had entered the hall with forged invitation cards.

The programme had been in progress barely for half an hour. In a moment pandemonium broke loose. The organizers of the second television channel threatened to bring it to an end.

M. Jean-Pierre Elkabbach, the director of information of Antenne 2, amid shouts of "Long live freedom", and "A France for youth with Marchais", declared indignantly: "You have just demonstrated to millions of Frenchmen your conception of freedom."

M. Maire spoke afterwards about a "commando operation" in which neither the youngsters, nor television viewers, nor the Communist Party have anything to gain.

The most frustrated by the performance were the 33 youngsters, who had prepared rough questions for weeks, and looked forward to making their voices heard. Some of them had come from the other end of France. They were on the verge of tears. After the television cameras had been switched off, an improvised debate took place between them and the panel.

A young farmer's wife, who had travelled from her remote village in the Pyrenees, was bursting with indignation. "I am fed up to the teeth with speeches, and abstract statements. I am on my tractor all day. Do they know the fate of women in the country? Tonight, I was going to get down to brass tacks. I was prevented. It is hell."

The outcry against the tactics of the CGT has been widespread. "Fascist methods", Mme Monique Pelletier, the Minister for Women's Affairs, who was on the panel, said afterwards.

The Communists remain daunted. M Seguy told an impromptu press conference today that M Maire had become the objective ally of the Government, the employers, and the "colonizers of information" by agreeing to be part of the panel. And M Fiterman insisted that the organizers had preferred to interrupt the show rather than allow a representative of the CGT to speak.

And for good measure the Communist newspaper L'Humanité today carried a banner headline which read "Antenne 2 and Europe 'One' censure youth."

Corsican group claims ministry bombing

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Feb 17

A violent explosion last night caused extensive damage to the offices of the Ministry of Education in Rue de Bellechasse, near the Boulevard Saint-Germain, a policeman was slightly injured and all windows of the building on the other side of the street were shattered by the attack.

Five fire brigades were called to put out a fire which broke out among the files and documents in the damaged offices.

Responsibility for the bomb attack was claimed by the Corsican National Liberation Front, the militant separatist organization, in a telephone call to a French press agency.

The caller said the front had also carried out the recent attacks on the Italian tourist office, Orly car park, and the Bercy wine vaults.

"The FNLC, which stems from the Corsican people, and is at its service, will pursue in Corsica as in France, the struggle for national liberation."

We call upon the French people to support the cause and the struggle of the Corsican nation," the caller said.

The French people could not care less about it, M Christian Beullac, the Education Minister, summed up their feelings accurately when he said the cowardice of the attack was only equaled by its stupidity.

"It could have had far more serious consequences owing to the permanent presence of personnel and tenants in the building which was singled out for outrage."

Eire mourns club fire victims

From Our Correspondent, Dublin

Flags flew at half mast throughout Ireland yesterday as the country mourned the 44 young people who died in the club fire in Dublin on Saturday. As part of a special day of mourning, the Government cancelled all church services of all denominations, organized Masses and memorial services.

Schools everywhere closed for at least part of the day so that teachers and pupils could attend religious services. Civil servants are allowed time off to attend. Dr Patrick Hillery, President of Ireland, and Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, attended a requiem Mass in the church in the parish in which the disaster took place. The chief celebrant, the Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland, the Most Rev Dr Dermot Ryan, praised heroes who lost lives in the fire trying to rescue victims.

All over Dublin shops, offices and cafes opened late yesterday. Cinema cancelled afternoon performances and the National Theatre Company cancelled performances at the Abbey and Peacock theatres. Golf clubs remained closed until lunchtime.

Parliament sat for only a few minutes before adjourning and court sittings commenced later than usual.

Six of the fire victims were buried yesterday, four of them in Dublin, one in Co Meath and one in Belfast. At the city morgue, Dublin, the identification of the victims continued. Two more people were identified yesterday, leaving 11 still unidentified.

"We are not as hopeful as we were originally of identifying everyone," Dr P. J. Bofin, the Dublin city coroner, said. "But I am still hoping that we will manage it."

Two dental experts are assisting a team of pathologists working at the morgue. Police inquiries into the cause of the fire are continuing. Many statements have been taken from survivors.

"We are still keeping an open mind on the cause of the fire," the police said last night.

A public inquiry into the disaster has already been announced by the Irish Government.

Nash terrace restoration planned

John Young, Planning Reporter

After many years of neglect, the terrace of Regent's Park, London, is under way for restoration. The terrace, which is a war-bomb damaged and is partially buried under a mound of rubble, is to be restored to its original state. The restoration, which is planned by the Crown Commissioners, is to be completed by 1984. The terrace, which is a war-bomb damaged and is partially buried under a mound of rubble, is to be restored to its original state. The restoration, which is planned by the Crown Commissioners, is to be completed by 1984.

Synod to debate covenant next week

Anglo-Catholic opposition to church unity hardens

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Opposition to the church unity proposals to be debated by the General Synod of the Church of England next week has hardened among Anglo-Catholic members of the synod, with the publication of a new pamphlet by the Right Rev Graham Leonard, the "Catholic Group" of members will be urged to vote against, en bloc.

The three Anglo-Catholics who serve on the Church Council for Christian Unity and are already publicly dissenting from the proposals, have now published *The Covenant: A Re-assessment*, a pamphlet setting out more arguments for rejecting the proposals. They are the Bishop of Truro, the Right Rev Graham Leonard; Canon Peter Boulton and Mr O. W. H. Clark.

The synod will be asked to agree that final approval of the proposals should require a 75 per cent majority of all members, in addition to the two-thirds majority in each house which the standing committee has recommended. That additional requirement, to be proposed by the Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Colin James, is also likely to have Anglo-Catholic support.

The pamphlet takes the battle for the covenant into the other camp by discussing and then rejecting the pro-covenant theology of one of the Roman Catholic consultants on the council, Father John Coventry, SJ. Supporters of the covenant have used Father Coventry's name and reputation to argue that the proposals are not anathema to the Roman Catholic Church, even though it is not itself taking part.

The pamphlet points out that another distinguished Roman Catholic theologian, the Right Rev B. C. Butler, does not accept Father Coventry's theory; and states that the other Roman Catholic consultant on the council, Father Denis Corbishley, is also unable to agree. But Father Corbishley has not yet committed himself in public.

In any case, the wording of the proposed covenanting service, the pamphlet states, is ambiguous at the crucial place. It does not indicate which of two interpretations of the word "recognition" is to be understood.

The three authors also object to the lack of any requirement that every minister of each participating church should take part in a form of covenanting service.

At present, the proposals envisage that a Free Church minister could gain full recognition of his ministry, in an Anglican sense, even if he does not attend such a service and merely refuses to register his decision to opt out. He would be deemed to have participated, and the Anglo-Catholics maintain that that raises serious doubts.

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Planning application charges disclosed

Planning Reporter

The Government's charges for planning applications were published in a subject to parliamentary approval, they will take effect on April 1.

Authorities concerned, Government expects amount to about £38m, slightly more than half cost of maintaining development control here: will be no fees for planning appeals.

All applications for outline planning permission will be charged at a rate of £40 for one tenth of a hectare, up to a maximum of £1,000.

For full applications the fees will be: £40 a unit for residential development (maximum £2,000); £40 for every 75 square metres of floor space for commercial and industrial buildings (maximum £2,000); £40 for each tenth of a hectare for the erection of plant and machinery (maximum £2,000); and £20 for each tenth of a hectare for the excavation and working of minerals (maximum £3,000).

There will be a flat fee of £20 for such things as fences, shopfronts, house extensions and car parks, and of £40 for changes of use, playing fields and advertising hoardings. Disabled people applying for permission to improve access to the facilities of their homes will be exempt from paying fees.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Reagan says US will honour in every possible respect hostage agreements with Iran

From David Cross, Washington, Feb 17

After nearly four weeks of intensive scrutiny by his Administration, President Reagan has decided to honour in every possible respect the controversial agreements concluded by former President Carter for the release of the 52 American hostages from Iran.

Announcing this today, Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said that President Reagan and his advisers had decided to accept and implement fully the agreements because this would be in the best interests of the United States.

Full details of the reasons behind the new Administration's decision would be announced in the next few days, he said.

Senator Percy was opening the first of what will be a whole series of congressional hearings into the events surrounding the 14-month hostage crisis. His committee is looking principally at the details of the final agreements which have become known as the Algiers declarations.

The documents which were signed in the Algerian capital in the final hours of President Carter's Administration last month provided among other points, for the return to Iran of part of its assets frozen in the United States.

In another hearing room on Capitol Hill, the foreign affairs committee of the House of Representatives today began a separate investigation into the

affair beginning with the seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran in November 1979. Yet another hearing by the Senate banking committee into the financial ramifications of the Algiers declarations is due to open on Thursday.

During today's Senate hearing, Senator Percy said that he applauded the decision by President Reagan and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, to honour the agreements concluded by their predecessors. It showed the world that the United States had full continuity of government, he said.

The chairman of the foreign relations committee who is a moderate Republican, also fulsomely congratulated Mr Edmund Muskie, the former Secretary of State, and Mr Warren Christopher, his former deputy, for their extraordinary skill in handling the negotiations for the release of the hostages.

"The country owes a debt of gratitude to you and President Carter," he told the two men who appeared as witnesses at today's opening hearing.

By all accounts, however, Senator Percy's enthusiasm for the agreements is not shared by President Reagan and his senior advisers. They are reported to have agreed to honour the Algiers declarations somewhat grudgingly, largely because they want to put the affair behind them and to avoid reopening wounds to American prestige which have just begun to heal.

Several members of the Senate foreign relations committee,

Ayatollah Khomeini's son attacks ruling party

From Tony Alloway, Tehran, Feb 17

Hojatoleslam Ahmad Khomeini, the son of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, has made a vehement denunciation of those who condone violence to suppress opposition.

The morning newspaper Mizan today carried a lengthy letter from Hojatoleslam Khomeini to Parliament which was a thinly disguised attack on the Muslim fundamentalists who rule Iran.

"It cannot be the case that no one is secure in this country except those who obey the club-wielders," he said, using a term that generally describes the "followers of the party of God" who have repeatedly taken to the streets to silence moderate and leftist opposition to the fundamentalists.

"The current of club-wielding is one of the worst and most horrifying problems and if we do not rise to cure it quickly, nothing will remain. It will overcome all political currents," he said.

The hojatoleslam does not necessarily reflect his father's opinion. Last June Ayatollah Khomeini gave his son public dressing-down after he had sprung to the defence of a leftist-Islamic group.

If the ayatollah keeps his silence, it would signal affirmation of his son's indirect attack on the dominant Islamic Republican Party (IRP) and Ayatollah Muhammad Beheshti, the party leader. Hojatoleslam Khomeini accused Parliament and the judiciary—which Ayatollah Beheshti heads as



An Iranian soldier uses a cable to drag a wounded comrade to safety during fighting with Iraqi forces in the Iranian town of Hoveysch.

Supreme Court Chief-of-indifference to such violence. He also accused the fundamentalists of using "the Imam's line"—the authority of Ayatollah Khomeini which the fundamentalists say they follow—as a pretext for eliminating all rival groups. "No brothers, step down, throw out the love of power, position and fame and then you will see you are absolutely ignorant," he said.

The letter was written in response to attacks by fundamentalists at the weekend on two meetings organized by Ayatollah Hassan Lahouti, an MP who supports President Bani-Sadr in his fight against the IRP.

Some newspapers have said an assassination attempt was involved, but there is no evidence to support this. Reports indicate that when Ayatollah Lahouti attempted to speak in the Caspian Sea town of Rasht, his meeting was broken up by fundamentalists who took him prisoner in a house for two hours.

The day after this news was fired as a gang broke up a similar meeting. Ayatollah Lahouti's wife was dragged from her car and assaulted.

Hojatoleslam Khomeini described Ayatollah Lahouti as a man "tortured in (the Shah's) prisons more than all the other clergymen" and he criticized two of the country's leading newspapers, *Kajhan* and *Ettelaat* which are backed by the fundamentalists, and the official radio and television for not reporting the attack.

Tehran rules out deal on detained Britons

By David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent

Any idea that the four Britons held in Iran might be released as part of a bargain, like the American hostages, was firmly and categorically denied by a senior Iranian official yesterday.

The four were not hostages and there was no question of a "price" for their release, he said. They were held on accusations of spying and it was up to the Department of Justice how their case was resolved.

These latest comments by the Iranian official came in the wake of the detained Britons made by Dr Ghafoori, governor of the province of Khuzestan, who is leading a mission to London on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Iranian revolution.

Speaking at the offices of the Iranian Oil Company yesterday, where an exhibition on the revolution will be held next weekend, Dr Ghafoori said he had no details of the charges against the four. He indicated that the allegations against them covered matters such as "making contact with opposition groups" and "giving information which involved the security of the country."

Despite persistent questioning, however, Dr Ghafoori had little new to add about the situation of the hostages.

So far as Western arms were concerned, the Iranian Government had made it clear it was ready to buy from any country ready to sell to it, he said, provided no conditions were imposed.

Zimbabwe to disarm both guerrilla factions

From Nicholas Ashford, Salisbury, Feb 17

The 22,000 Zanla and Zipra former guerrillas who have not yet been integrated into the new Zimbabwean National Army are to be "systematically disarmed" after last week's factional insurrection in Matobo.

This was announced today by Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, the recently promoted military supreme and chairman of the Joint High Command which comprises the leaders of the former Zanla and Zipra guerrilla armies as well as the former Rhodesian security forces.

Mr Mnangagwa did not say how long the disarming process would take but said that it had already begun with the disarming over the past two days of Zanla and Zipra guerrillas who were involved in the bloody shoot-out in Entumbane township in Bulawayo which resulted in about 150 deaths.

The continued existence of two heavily armed rival forces has been one of the main problems facing the Government of Mr Robert Mugabe since Zimbabwe became independent last April. There have been a number of violent incidents involving the two forces including a pitched battle between them in Entumbane last November.

If the guerrillas are now successfully disarmed, this should go some way to preventing a repetition of the sort of factional fighting experienced last week.

The minister gave warning

Afghan insurgents await melting of snow to step up war on Russians

From Trevor Fishlock, Peshawar, Feb 17

In their second year of fighting the Soviet Army of occupation, Afghan guerrillas are evidently in good heart.

Judging by the demeanour of the men passing through the frontier city of Peshawar, the appetite for the struggle remains as strong as ever. Insurgent groups say they are looking forward to the melting of the snows next month and intensification of the war.

In spite of their losses, the guerrillas feel they have not done too badly in the past year. Although their weaponry is no match for the enemy's advanced equipment, especially the tanks and helicopter gunships, they feel that their fighting performance shows they can endure for many years.

If they are disappointed by the meagre response to their appeals for arms to the West and the Islamic world they do not disclose it to outsiders.

Some weapons, mostly rifles, have been getting through to them, but they have not been sent the requested anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns, missiles and rockets.

The Mujahidin guerrillas are no better armed than they were

a year ago. But they have grown to recognize that to a large extent they have to rely on their own resources. With a dash of bravado they are asserting their independence and say they no longer want to be seen begging for arms. This attitude results from their growing confidence in their ability to hold their own against immense odds.

"As long as there are Russians in Afghanistan we shall have no difficulty in getting the weapons we need," a spokesman for Hezbe Islami, one of the largest of the Peshawar-based insurgent groups, said today.

"It is true we are short of anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns. But, insha Allah (God willing), all these things will be captured from the Russians in time. Look at our men; they are armed by the Russians and clothed by the Afghan Army."

Soviet automatic rifles are by no means uncommon sight in certain parts of Peshawar. And scores of Afghans look rather jaunty in smart, new Afghan army coats and jackets.

Inside Afghanistan, rifles are occasionally taken from dead soldiers, but are more often either brought over to the

Mujahidin by men defecting from the ramshackle Afghan Army, or sold and bartered by Afghan and Soviet soldiers.

Guns are sometimes given in exchange for marijuana, and the development of the clandestine arms trade in Afghanistan has pushed down the price of ammunition for Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifles to about 12p a round in some areas. In other parts, however, bullets are scarce.

A Kalashnikov rifle can be bought on the frontier for not less than \$1,500. But, according to one of the insurgent groups, it can cost a quarter of that price inside Afghanistan.

Many Mujahidin still fight with the Lee Enfield 303, a familiar sight in this region. It is still manufactured in considerable quantity on the frontier, although the quality of materials means that the life of many of these guns is limited.

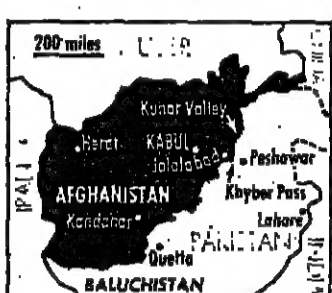
Nevertheless, the tribesmen's mastery of, and familiarity with, rifle and terrain, as well as their stamina, love of fighting and murderous hatred of Russian "infidels", help them to reduce the gap created by the mismatch of the power.

"The Russians certainly have the better equipment," the Hezbe Islami spokesman said. "But not the better men and morale."

There is evidence, too, that some of the Mujahidin are practising a more effective form of guerrilla warfare. Instead of taking part in ragged charges and disorganized ambushes, more of them are setting out on sorties with clear objectives and well-laid plans of attack, supply and withdrawal.

Although winter has reduced the level of fighting, the hospitals of Peshawar are still receiving a number of wounded tribesmen, many with limbs injured or blown off by mines laid by the Russians last spring and summer.

There is no let-up in the flow of refugees. Many villages in the Kunar valley, running north



from Jalalabad, and fairly close to the Pakistan border, have been reduced to rubble and its people have fled. The Kunar valley, along which Alexander the Great marched to what is now northern Pakistan, has received particular attention from the Russians.

There was a heavy influx of refugees into the North-West Frontier Province in December and January, bringing the number there to 1,200,000 settled in 250 camps. Another 250,000 are in Baluchistan, to the south.

A larger number of the new arrivals are in poorer health than among their predecessors and more are suffering from malnutrition. This evidence, as well as reports of food shortages and the destruction of crops by the Russians, seem to justify concern among some of the insurgent groups that food may become a problem for them in the months ahead.

In spite of the continuing exodus from Afghanistan, the relationship between refugees and local people in the frontier region remains fairly harmonious. There were some squabbles over land and water, and some gunfights, last year, but there have been no comparable incidents for some months. The tradition of hospitality among Pathans, and a feeling of Muslim kinship, seem to be smoothing frictions. Pakistan is host to one of the world's largest refugee communities as more than one-fifth of Afghanistan's population has fled here.

The loose grouping of insurgent groups in Peshawar has, to no one's surprise, finally crumbled. It existed, essentially, on paper, having been formed in an attempt to present a united front, especially to the Arab world, as a way of attracting money for guns.

The differences in outlook between the leaders made frictions and personality clashes between the leaders made fragmentation inevitable. There are about 10 main groups or parties based in Peshawar, and perhaps a dozen smaller ones. Their philosophies range from Hezbe Islami's fundamentalism to moderate democratic liberalism.

The Hezbe Islami spokesman said: "The removal of the Russians is only part of the struggle. Once they have been driven out, once Babrak Karmal has fallen, our goal is to create an Islamic state in Afghanistan."

General says 500 Soviet tanks threaten S Africa

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Feb 17

More than 500 Russian tanks are poised close to South Africa's borders ready to launch a conventional attack on the country, according to General Maguau Malan, the new Defence Minister.

The general, who was formerly chief of the armed forces, made the claim in Parliament in his maiden speech. He still has to win a seat, although presumably that will come at the general election on April 29.

General Malan's speech was pretty hot stuff even by South African standards. Reds under the bed there must be; after the regular appearances on television of Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, there can be few South Africans who do not take a peek under the bed-stead at night to ensure a peaceful night's rest. But tanks—that is another ball game.

According to General Malan, in Angola there are 300 Russian tanks, 350 Russian armoured cars and 400 infantry combat vehicles, and a considerable number of fighter aircraft, including Mig21s.

In Mozambique, he said,

Croat nationalist on trial for political interviews

Belgrade, Feb 17.—The first important trial of a political dissident in Yugoslavia since the death of Josip Tito last May started today in the north-western city of Zagreb.

Tanjung news agency said former Army General Frapjo Tudjman, a Croatian historian, was charged with "maliciously and falsely representing social and political conditions" in the country in interviews with foreign media.

In October, 1972, Mr Tudjman was sentenced to two years imprisonment for "criminal acts against the state and people."

He had claimed that nationalism in Croatia, one of the six republics and two autonomous provinces that make up federal Yugoslavia, was being brutally suppressed. The sentence was reduced to one year on appeal and he served nine months.

He now faces up to 10 years in jail on the new charges, which arise from interviews he gave in January and May last year to West German television and French radio.

The Yugoslav authorities confiscated the tapes of the interviews, which were never broadcast, but the prosecutor said they nevertheless constituted "hostile propaganda."

Mr Tudjman had said in the interviews that Croatia was neglected by the federal Government and that anyone who stood up for Croatian rights was branded either a separatist or a nationalist conservative.

He said in a deposition published earlier that his remarks had been taken out of context. Legal sources in Zagreb said the trial would last about three days. —Reuters.

Front-line African summit condemns Pretoria raids

Lusaka, Feb 17.—Five Southern African leaders today condemned South Africa for its continued military attacks on neighbouring states and for the failure of last month's Geneva talks on independent states in Namibia (South-West Africa).

The presidents of Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, said in a communiqué issued after five hours of talks in Lusaka that they were deeply concerned by "South Africa's

West Africa. Without changing airlines.

Some international airlines serve one or two of West Africa's capital cities. But if you want to go anywhere else in West Africa you have to change airlines and find a seat with a local carrier.

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Ministers fall out in Thailand over oil negotiations

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, Feb 17

A political dispute involving three Cabinet ministers has broken out in Thailand where the Government has terminated nine years early a foreign company's lease of an oil refinery.

All political parties and the military support the Government's action, the first of its kind against a foreign company in Thailand, but related events have caused bitter arguments and may lead to Cabinet changes.

A senior minister threatened to dismiss his deputy and another said that the actions of the junior minister should be investigated by the anti-corruption committee.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, last Saturday abruptly terminated the 25-

year lease to the Summit Industrial Corporation (Panama) of the Bangkok refinery which refines 65,000 barrels a day, 40 per cent of Thailand's refinery capacity.

He criticized the company for the way it ran the refinery and accused it of having frequently broken the terms of its agreement with the Government.

Labour disputes which are rare in Thailand have been frequent at the refinery and recent governments have blamed the management for the lease. The termination of the lease came after the arbitrary dismissal of 20 workers which threatened to cause violent reaction elsewhere.

The Government had not felt confident about ending the lease, until its own crude oil supplies were assured. General

Chaichai Choonhavan, Minister of Industry, went to Saudi Arabia and concluded a contract for the necessary supplies.

On his return, he accused "hooded men" in the Cabinet of sabotaging his negotiations by sending Telex messages to the Saudi Government, saying that he was not authorized to negotiate for oil. The Prime Minister had to send a personal message to the Saudi Government denying the allegations.

Later it was disclosed that Mr Visit Tansacha, the Deputy Minister of Industry, had been separately negotiating with a Hongkong trading company for Saudi Arabian oil which was to cost Thailand an extra \$4 (£1.66) a barrel in commission to the Hongkong company.

Mr Visit who has been threatened with dismissal and investigation by the anti-corruption committee, said today: "Reports of scandals in oil deals are unfounded."

The Summit company is registered in Panama. Its head office is in New York but its shareholders listed as "unavailable" remain a mystery. A Hongkong Chinese naturalized in Thailand, is the managing director.

Colonel Chamlong Srimuang, secretary general to the Prime Minister, accused the company's management of "acting as if they are the owners of Thailand."

The company has a marketing subsidiary which operates 300 petrol stations in Thailand but, its activities are unlikely to be affected.

OVERSEAS

Coalition in Australia is split over tax reform

From Douglas Alton
Melbourne, Feb 17

The issue of tax reform is threatening the stability of the Australian coalition Government and Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, and Mr Douglas Anthony, the Deputy Prime Minister, have been thrown into public conflict.

The controversy began as something of a joke, with Mr Anthony's tacit endorsement of a suggestion by the Queensland National Party (formerly Country Party) that Australia should introduce a system making every wage earner pay 20 per cent tax on income. Scipio dubbed the proposal the "flat earth" theory.

But it has become the main issue of the impending by-election for the seat of Macpherson, which is part of the Queensland Gold Coast.

The by-election was caused by the death of Mr Eric Robinson, a Liberal Finance Minister. Mr Robinson was a fierce opponent of the Queensland National Party, and it is probably because of this that the party is the by-election candidate in the Liberal coalition.

This is somewhat unusual as the Liberal Party and the National Party form the federal coalition, with Mr Fraser the Liberal leader and Mr Anthony the National leader.

A 20 per cent flat rate of taxation is not generally considered a feasible solution simply because the Government would not reap enough money—a flat rate of around 35 per cent is thought to be a more realistic figure. This would be a cruel burden for low income earners.

Australia currently has a progressive income tax system with most people paying around 30 per cent. High income earners pay more, or are supposed to, and low income earners pay less.

The drawback of the system is that the wealthy usually employ accountants to set up various tax avoidance schemes—like family trusts and private companies—so that their tax is dramatically reduced.

The burden of taxation has always been borne by the middle income wage earner, whose tax is automatically deducted from his pay.

Such has been the heat generated by the tax issue that today scheduled discussions of taxation options were taken off the agenda of a Cabinet meeting to avoid the possibility of a clash between Mr Anthony and Mr John Howard, the federal Treasurer.

Mr Howard said last week that he was surprised that Mr Anthony had continued to support a flat rate taxation scheme.

The by-election is next Saturday and Mr Anthony has said that he will take the proposal to Cabinet if the National Party candidate wins.

There is no doubt that reform is overdue. The taxation system has been biased in favour of the wealthy since the 1950s.

A special conference attended by the Prime Minister and the six state premiers is likely to be held in April to discuss the matter.

But whether Mr Anthony is serious about supporting his Queensland colleagues or not, it is unlikely that such a motion as a 20 per cent flat tax rate will be discussed at the meeting.



The Pope greeting President Marcos of the Philippines and his wife, Mrs Imelda Marcos, at Malacanang Palace, Manila, yesterday

Turks count cost of curbing terror

From Mario Modiano
Ankara, Feb 17

Turkey's grim statistics of violence show that the country's military rulers have had remarkable success in curbing terrorism since they seized power on September 12. But what worries people in Western Europe is the probable cost of this success in terms of human rights.

In the four and a half months that preceded the coup, 1,479 people were killed and 2,788 injured as a result of terrorist action, between September 12 and the end of last month, the death toll was 328—two-fifths of them terrorists or suspects—and the number of injured was down to 499.

The regime says it is holding just over 12,000 people out of 34,000 detained since the coup. Of these 9,147 have been charged and 2,512 have been convicted. The martial law authorities are currently investigating some 25,000 cases of terrorist activity.

Throughout Turkey, in railway stations, ports, and airports, posters are on display with the portraits of scores of wanted terrorists or suspects both from the extreme right and the extreme left.

Their numbers diminish each day as the regime improves its intelligence system. Already a "data centre" in the Interior Ministry, which ensures a 24-hour flow of information for the provincial centres, can now

check the identity of a suspect within 10 minutes, instead of one month, as hitherto. The centre is now to be computerized.

On the debit side, at least three people are acknowledged to have died while in detention as a result of torture or brutality. What, of course, remains unknown is the number of people who may have been tortured and survived.

One ray of hope is that the ruling military have shown willingness to investigate complaints and, as in the case of the three deaths, prosecute the culprits. It is a policy that could act as a deterrent to torture.

The key to the disruption of a terrorist cell, "one security official said, "is to catch the leaders. Once this is done, the others are no longer afraid to confess."

One evident reason for the generals' success is their impartiality in cracking down equally on both extremes, right and left.

This has had two unexpected side effects: First, it rid the police of political patronage which had crippled its effectiveness. As one Western diplomat put it: "Under political governments, policemen were apt to suffer from being too efficient in the wrong direction."

Secondly, it encouraged citizens to give the authorities information on terrorists. Hence the early arrest of those charged

with assassinating prominent Turks (as opposed to random killings).

The importance of new anti-terrorist legislation can hardly be underestimated. It gives the security forces the right to shoot to kill any fleeing suspect, and also to detain suspects for 90 days before they are brought before a magistrate.

This legislation-of-course, exposes Turkey to allegations of wholesale violation of human rights. What Western diplomats in Ankara, however, emphasize is that for all the torture stories one hears, there is no evidence that the regime uses brutality and torture systematically as a method of repression. Torture may be a practice at the lowest level, but not a system.

Most Turks are convinced that the Soviet Union and its allies are backing some of the terrorist groups to keep this country under threat of destabilization, but so far no solid evidence has been found, despite protests to Bulgarian over suspected gun-running along the Black Sea coast.

The regime realizes that if terrorism is to be cut to manageable proportions, it must uproot the complex ideological logistics networks that both extremes succeeded in implanting in the public administration with the tolerance of the politicians. This involves a thorough purge of extremists and sympathizers from key positions.

Keeping baby whale alive with affection

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Feb 17

An extremely rare baby whale, rescued from the Pacific Ocean off the coast of southern California, is making good progress today after an army of volunteers at Marineland of the Pacific worked around the clock to keep it alive.

Thousands of Californians have been following details of the recovery of the five-foot mammal, believed to be the first known case of a dwarf sperm whale being kept alive in captivity, since it was retrieved

from the waters of Long Beach over the weekend.

The whale was found to have severe cuts on its tail and was trying to beach itself. Blood tests were taken which showed that "this whale is definitely sick," a volunteer nurse said.

It was carried to Marineland, where dozens of young volunteers have spent the last 48 hours working four-hour shifts, taking the whale, some 20 ft. wide tank to make sure it does not injure itself any further or drown.

Marineland reported today

that the whale ate its first meal in captivity through a tube: fish gruel fortified with vitamins and minerals.

A spokesman at Marineland said the whale was sluggish but apparently enjoyed all the attention it was getting and liked being surrounded by humans.

If the whale recovers completely it will be moved to a larger tank, while the curator decides whether it is safe to be kept in captivity any longer.

Sandinista rulers face the public

From Stephen Downer
Granada, Nicaragua, Feb 17

Much of the audience was noisy and the exchange of words, amplified by the speakers, drowned the sound of the unseasonal rain beating down outside.

They numbered about 1,500 people of all ages and classes. Many of them were seated on wooden and in chairs trying to keep as still, and consequently as cool, as possible.

Most of them were standing, tightly packed, down two sides of the ancient hall under six antique ceiling fans.

On the left of the hall hung the white and blue national flag, on the right the red and black colours of the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

The people listened closely while Comandante Daniel Ortega, a Sandinista member of the five-man junta governing Nicaragua, urged them to join the militia.

Minutes later, a section of the audience burst out laughing as a chair, on which a youth had been balancing and straining to

catch a glimpse of the stage, collapsed with a clatter.

It was a Friday evening and members of the revolutionary Nicaraguan Government were gathered in their weekly "face the public" session.

The town of Granada, which has a population of 29,000 and is 45 minutes by car from Managua, the capital, has been chosen as the venue for the first or so such encounter between the Government and people since the revolution of July, 1979.

The meetings, which anyone may attend, are designed to give the public a say in government decisions.

Cynics claim the questions are prepared beforehand. The tears of one elderly questioner were so spontaneous as to indicate that he at least was not involved in such a scheme, if anyone else was.

The questions dealt with such things as the scarcity of land to bury the dead, hygiene and local government officials.

Only when Comandante

Ortega and Señor Eden Pastora, deputy Defence Minister, raised the question of the militia did the audience turn its full attention to the speaker.

The Government has promised free elections by 1985, time enough, according to the Sandinistas, who dominate the Government, for the Nicaraguan people to be convinced of their merit.

Other political parties, such as the conservative Democratic Party and the social democratic Movement (MDN), are scornful of the number attracted by the Government to public meetings.

They claim they have drawn many more whenever they have held rallies. The opposition parties have demanded elections earlier than 1985. Señor Alfonso Robelo, a former member of the Junta and secretary-general of the MDN, says of the Sandinistas: "They will give the impression of being politically pluralist, provided this does not affect their absolute power."

Protest by U.S. over attempt at blackmail

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 17

The State Department announced today that it had protested to the Soviet Union about an apparent attempt at blackmail a military attaché in the American Embassy in Moscow.

Major James Holbrook, who was an assistant military attaché, was recalled to Washington suddenly in the middle of last month after reporting the incident to his superiors.

A State Department spokesman today declined to give any details of the incident, but well-informed diplomatic sources in Moscow have said that the KGB tried to take compromising photographs of Major Holbrook during a brief visit to the city of Rostov.

The sources said that the blackmail attempt which was apparently designed to recruit Major Holbrook as a spy might have involved the use of drugs.

Law Report February 17 1981

Mareva injunctions: banks may get their costs

Seaford Ltd v Seafair UK Ltd
Before Mr Justice Robert Goff
[Judgment delivered February 16]

A Mareva injunction may be granted on condition that the applicant undertakes to pay the reasonable costs incurred by a person to whom notice of the order is given in ascertaining whether any asset to which the order applied was within his possession or control.

That course was in accordance with the observation made by Lord Denning in *Rahman (Princess Abdul Bin Turki Al Sudary)* (1968) 1 WLR 1238, that "when there is a Mareva injunction—"

Mr Justice Robert Goff, in the Commercial Court, conditionally granted an ex parte application made by the plaintiffs, Seaford Ltd (trading as European Container Services) for a Mareva injunction restraining the defendants, Seafair UK Ltd, from disposing of assets within the jurisdiction, in so far as they were not already in the hands of any money in any bank account of the plaintiffs claim against the defendants for damages for breach of contract.

Mr David Hogg for the plaintiffs, HES LORDSHIP said that he granted the order for the injunction only on the condition, to which the plaintiffs had agreed, that they undertook to pay the reasonable costs incurred by any person to whom notice of the order was given in ascertaining whether any asset to which the order applied was within his possession or control.

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could not reasonably complain. But when an account was not identified it was not right that a bank should incur expenses in ascertaining whether an alleged account existed, without being reimbursed by the plaintiff for any reasonable costs so incurred. Banks were not debt-collecting agencies; they were simply, in the present context, officers who were anxious not to contravene an order made by the court, an order which had been obtained on the application of and for the benefit of the plaintiff. Even where the particular branch of the bank was identified, some expense was likely to be incurred in discovering whether the defendant had an account at that branch; and where the branch was not specified, the bank would be put in a very difficult position.

In the present case the problem was to pay the reasonable costs of the plaintiff to give an undertaking in the terms identified in the judgment. The effect of such an undertaking would be that the bank to whom notice of the injunction was given should, before taking steps to ascertain whether the defendant had an account at any particular branch, obtain an indemnity from the plaintiff's solicitors to pay the reasonable costs incurred in so doing. The bank would then be protected. More-

over, the plaintiff's solicitors would not doubt be encouraged to limit any inquiry to a particular branch or to certain particular branches.

It was possible that a practice might develop under which, in ordinary circumstances, a bank charged a standard fee where a particular branch was identified, and another where it was not. If reasonable standard fees could be established to the satisfaction of the taxing master, both time and money might be saved on the taxation of costs.

The costs of any search had to be paid by the plaintiffs on whose ex parte application the injunction had been granted. Whether they would be able to obtain an indemnity from the defendants would depend on any order as to costs which might later be made in the litigation.

Finally, the undertaking required of the plaintiffs should be so drawn as to affect only cases incurred by a person, other than the defendants, to whom notice of the order was given.

Solicitors: Lawrence Jones & Co.

Chancery Division

Baron Inglewood and Another v Revenue Commissioners
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment delivered February 13]

The acquisition of an interest in possession in a share of the trust fund. In March, 1976, the trustees released the power of appointment to the plaintiff, the eldest child named in the will, in a share of the trust fund. In March, 1976, the trustees released the power of appointment to the plaintiff, the eldest child named in the will, in a share of the trust fund.

The trustees appointed against the two consequential assessments "to capital transfer tax made on them. By consent the appeals by way of originating summons were made directly to the High Court pursuant to paragraph 15 (3) of Schedule 4 to the Finance Act, 1975.

Paragraph 6 (2) of Schedule 4 imposed a charge on the estate of a person who became entitled to an interest in possession in the whole or any part of the property comprised in a settlement at a time when no such interest subsisted."

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THE ARTS

Colin Davis at his best in revealing Berg's sensuality

Lulu
Covent Garden

William Mann

Although Alban Berg's second opera *Lulu* has never been seen at Covent Garden until Monday night, there have been numerous performances of it elsewhere in Britain, usually in the form of a production, but including one production, in English translation, which was of the incomparable score in the act as a second scene of Act I, sometimes with a fragmentary third act built out of the composer's concert suite. It was known even then that the opera was virtually complete, but Berg's widow refused to let the third act be handled by another musician. Since her death the Austrian composer Friedrich Cerha has brought out his own completion, with the blessing of Berg's publisher, Schott, but it is not the first complete *Lulu* as a Paris Opera all but two years ago, confirming the necessity of the third act, if only because Berg's obsession with symmetry and structure demanded the completion of a musical and dramatic design. The Paris production was recorded, and has allowed it all to get the music of the third act into our bones.

There have been subsequent productions of one of them by Götz Friedrich, who now directs his revised version for the Royal Opera, and has been able to recruit to it singers already experienced in the three-act *Lulu*. His musical collaborator here is a tremendous interpretation of Wagner's *Ring*, Sir Colin Davis. Covent Garden's new integral *Lulu* bears their joint

bell mark: it is distinguished, not quite flawless, but already an interpretation worth experiencing several times, and by then the flaws may have been ironed out.

Davis has proved himself a sympathetic and illuminating interpreter of Berg's music, with his account of Wozzeck here and in New York. He has such to bring to the score of *Lulu*, dancing lift and keen characterization in Berg's "novelty" numbers, those essays in particular genres, whether borrowed from earlier opera or from jazz, as in the nightclub scene which ends the first act.

Chiefly Davis concentrates on the sensuality of Berg's music, as Berg suggested with the remark that "only through an understanding of the sensual can one arrive at a true idea of the human psyche" and on its long spans of design, the dove-tailing of scenes, and progressively the enlightenment of musical reprise. That exquisitely lyrical interlude after the second scene of Act I might have appeared cold or understated, but at the last return of that music in the final scene Davis forged an overwhelming climax for the plight of the earth-spirit, as Wedekind called *Lulu*, and the larger liaison was appreciated.

Even more remarkable was Davis's trait grip on the various concerned ensembles in the gaming scene which begins Act III. A great deal goes on, some vocal lines as foreground, others in support: the balance and interplay were brilliantly sustained under complete and natural control. As the evening progressed so it was plain that whatever Friedrich was doing with the drama Davis was doing with the music: a signal example would be Alwa's song solo towards the end of the second act, the tension completely sustained, even



Günter Reich as Dr Schön and Karan Armstrong as Lulu

with an Alwa (Ryszard Karczykowski) whose tenor is more lyric than dramatic.

Friedrich, and his designer Timothy O'Brien, set *Lulu* in a cross between a zoo, with cages, and a prison with wire-netted corridors and doors. The opera begins with the Ringmaster parading his bestial charges, dressed as they will later appear. Rodrigo to a rugby shirt, Schön in businessman's dress, the Artist in his tunic, Lulu in a black snake-skin wedding train.

The snake-skin remains a permanent feature of the unit set, like Lulu's portrait and the prison corridors, hardly noticed in the Artist's modish living room, or in Dr Schön's house, with its practicable two-storey lift (useful and atmospheric), positively transformed in the nightclub scene, where dancers

and stage technicians monopolize the passages, but also a permanent stamping-ground for the fed-faced Ringmaster who stalks on top of it whenever a fatality looms. Dr Schön's death, wrapped in the snake-skin, is a masterly stroke—he created the reptile which killed him.

The permanent, tiled floor proves at least as unhelpful as suitable, even granted the updating of the action into the 1930s, a source of attractive clothes for the ladies, dubious for the ethical restrictions inherent in the play, downright incredible when Jack, the Ripper arrives to murder Lulu and her lesbian friend, Jack was a Victorian criminal.

Friedrich's monochrome silent film for the interlude in Act II is lucid and handsomely directed. He stages the farcical second act, Lulu's admirers

concealed everywhere, with a dashing sense of humour, not least in the obsessed behaviour of Dr Schön, and everywhere Friedrich is ready to accept the fantastic, ironical element in the plot and its character.

Karan Armstrong, musically a virtuoso Lulu in her response to a long and taxing part, deserved all the copious cheers afterwards, not least because she had hurt herself during rehearsals and suffered further injury in the first act on Monday. Yet her Lulu, from the outset, is a more openly lascivious creature than Wedekind's child of nature or Berg's capricious girl. She offers plenty of leg-show, and a splendid transformation from the choleric-tempered, healthy heroine of "O Frelheit" after her escape from prison. Her half-spoken confession of love to Dr Schön was ideally pitched between speech and song.

Canto General Tanz-Forum, Cologne

John Percival

The unmistakable features of sambar Kingdom Brazil gaze out from one of the illustrations in the programme book of Canto General. Jochen Ulrich's extraordinary dance-drama for Tanz-Forum, the dance company of the Opera House, Cologne. Brühl is roared in splendid Victorian splendour against the background of the huge chains of its steamship, the Great Eastern. No, he is not actually a character in the ballet, but is there as a symbol of one aspect of European civilization.

For the theme of *Canto General* is nothing less than the clash of cultures of two continents, the effect on South America of its conquest by the white man and his values, inspired by what Ulrich saw when he company toured Latin America two or three years ago, the work is based upon Pablo Neruda's poem of the same title. The scale of the ballet is as ambitious as its content, lasting two hours with an interval.

The first of its five episodes is an evocation of Inca civilization. At this stage the ballet here is no attempt at realism. Johannes Fritsch's score is related to medieval or early Renaissance music rather than a specifically ethnic sources, suggesting the remote time in preference to the exotic place. Ulrich's choreography indicates the ritualism and formality of a culture which we can recognize but hardly understand. The dances are ceremonious but simple, using a few accessories to imply the masks and head-dresses of this lost culture. The mood is tranquil, even when a vanishing body and a rumbling red cloak symbolize a human sacrifice.

That atmosphere is broken by the arrival of the conquistadors, who break their way through a wall at one side of the stage with elaborate courtly manners and an intolerant attitude, religious trappings and deadly weapons, against which the Indians fight back in vain.

In each successive scene the work becomes more modern, more naturalistic. The steps have been suggested in an inca temple are disguised with advertising slogans, then reversed to turn into the mean houses in which fighters for freedom huddle to hide from the political police. The scene becomes more and more cramped; dancing becomes more difficult as the spirit of the people is hemmed in. Yet that spirit struggles and survives to the last.

Ulrich and his composer make telling use of irony to underline the theme. The tango emerges in the score during a scene where diplomats and politicians gaze admiringly at a museum exhibit of the native culture that has been trampled almost out of existence. Even when preparing for battle, the European invaders, hand their ladies down from the ships with proud gallantry.

A challenge for Elizabeth Taylor



Lutgart van der Straeten

with her hair loose, to lead a dance of triumph for short-lived freedom. Svenbjørn Alexander brings splendid fervour to this.

Ulrich identifies Neruda with the spirit of the oppressed people and has as his leading male character a poet who has to speak as well as dance. Paul Porter succeeds in both aspects of the role, playing with a passionate conviction. But he is only the first among equals, because the whole company perform with a gripping sense of drama.

Neruda's words are woven into the fabric of the work, not only in the role of the poet but even more by the presence of a Chilean actor, Leonardo Martinez, who sits at the side of the stage speaking extracts from the text. There are two singers besides the orchestra pit together with three musicians playing percussion, trombone and guitar, and a fourth who controls electronically all those live sound sources and a prepared tape.

The performance I attended something had gone wrong with the arrangements for processing the music through microphones and loudspeakers. After some anxious adaptation, the show proceeded with an apology that it would not sound quite as it should. Even so, I found the score impressive, and look forward to hearing it again in happier circumstances.

Götz Loepelmann's scenery and make, the costumes by Marie-Louise Cramer and Heinrich Benkel's lighting all have an important share in the ballet's success. Although the proportion of realism and fantasy varies, as already indicated, during the course of the work, there is throughout an imaginative use of objects to suggest rather than imitate. Tables, for instance, become the decks of ships, and planks are used as shields and as offensive weapons.

One interesting aspect of *Canto General* is that it uses dance to convey its theme, not merely decoratively. Thinking back to it, I cannot remember a single dance which could be taken out of context and presented on its own.

In Cologne *Canto General* is performed not in the Opera House itself but in the adjoining Playhouse, an auditorium which, on the whole, is probably more apt for such a purpose. For (good news since once you do not have to go abroad to see it for yourself, Tanz-Forum is coming to Sadler's Wells for a fortnight in April, and *Canto General* is one of the weeks to shorter brought, together with shorter ballets by Reinhold Hoffman, Jürgen Burch, and Hans van Manen and Jochen Ulrich, all but one of them new to London.

Elizabeth Taylor is 49 at the end of this month. And she has rather more films than years to her credit. The figure generally quoted is 50, but when she was in London recently she quickly corrected that total and raised it to 58.

She got an early start. She was only 10 when she shared the billing in *Lassie Come Home* with Roddy McDowall and the dog in question. A couple of years later she fought off considerable competition for a ride on The Pie in the first film version of Enid Bagnold's *National Velvet*.

Miss Taylor liked both those films. "Did you know that Lassie was a he and not a she?" No, I did not. The question did not cross my mind when I was moved to childhood tears on first seeing the picture. "Well, Lassie was a he. And, on reflection, I reckon some of my best leading men have been dogs and horses."

Among those challenging Elizabeth Taylor for the lead in *National Velvet* was one Shirley Carlin, later Shirley Williams. Perhaps defeat on that occasion steered Miss Carlin for reverses which were to come when she moved her career in a different direction. Elizabeth Taylor certainly did not deter her from acting, and she played opposite Peter Parker in *King Lear* when she was at Oxford.

More recently Elizabeth Taylor took a step herself towards the Williams potential territory when she married her husband number six (excluding Richard Burton for the second time round), John Warren, a lithe, silver-haired Republican senator, with impeccable Virginia manners. The marriage came at a time when her film career was somewhat beleaguered: Hal Prince's movie version with her of *A Little Night Music* met with limited critical approval and did very poor office business; George Cukor's *The Blue Bird* attracted acres of publicity but never took to the wing. For the last five years Miss Taylor has spent much of her time campaigning for her husband.

"I've thought I'm a true Virginian now. I own a British passport, but I think I'm going to take out an American one so that I can vote for John. I even rode up riding again—that was a mistake."

"Two weeks before we were married I went out hunting, which was not exactly wise because I've had two inches of my spine removed and hadn't jumped since I was 24. Early on the horse pecked and it seemed to take two and a half hours before the ground reached up and hit me. As the blood came out of my nose I heard the voice of my riding instructor when I was seven years old, saying 'If you fall off, you must always remount'."

Miss Taylor, who had Victor Caszlar for a godfather, was well schooled in matters equestrian long before MGM put her in the saddle.

"So I got back on. A little later the horse shied again and this time when I was thrown there was no moving, just silent tears of pain. Eventually a couple of hill-topers came by in a pick-up truck and I yelled out 'Don't move on, but move me instead. And gently, please.' They took me home, just another woman who had fallen off a horse, but fortunately the mother of one of them turned out to be a fan... but no more sleepchasing."

The film, which has enticed



Elizabeth Taylor away from political campaigning is *The Mirror Crack'd*, which opens in the West End after a royal premiere next week. It is the third in the series which John Brabourne and Richard Godwin have made from Agatha Christie novels, but unlike *Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile* does not feature the mighty Poirot. Miss Marple is the sleuth and even she takes a back seat, literally, because of a broken leg. The setting is nothing more exotic to English eyes at least, than Kentish village in Coronation

Year. Elizabeth Taylor plays Marina Gregg, a movie actress whose arrival with a film crew uncovers a series of murders which Miss Marple (Angela Lansbury) solves without moving 100 feet from her front room. What was the attraction for Elizabeth Taylor?

"Any number of things. I liked the challenge of Marina, a consummate actress and a bad actress at the same time, a liar and a charmer. The shooting schedule of six weeks was just right and I was delighted to have the chance to go back to Kent, a part of England I knew very well. I was a child. It is so like Virginia, you know. Kent could almost be an adjoining state."

"It also happens that I adore detective stories. Richard [Burton] and I used to read them in bed. We had a copy each and when we got to page 50 or thereabouts we both wrote down the name of the murderer. I'm glad to say that I invariably beat him, which drove him mad. I remember reading *The Mirror Crack'd* when it first came out in 1962. OK, so perhaps I agree with you that it wasn't one of the best Agatha Christies, but it has possibilities."

"Maybe the film is better than the book. Certainly it has more jokes, one or two of which are strictly for those in the profession: Kim Novak makes fun of my big feet and Rock Hudson—this is the first time I've worked with Rock since *Giant*—has a couple of Doris Day lines."

Cognoscenti may also be intrigued by the opening sequence which shows the kind of film that used to be made from Christie novels 30 years ago breaking down on the village hall projector. It will not escape them that Dame Agatha dedicated *The Mirror Crack'd* from Side to Side, to use the full Christie title—taken from Tennyson—to "Margaret Ruthven-Tennison, in admiration."

Elizabeth Taylor now goes into rehearsal for Lillian Hellman's *The Little Foxes*, on stage rather than on screen, which is scheduled for Broadway in April after an East Coast tour starting in a few days' time.

"We read two plays, *Foxes* and *Hay Fever*. We reckoned that an American play could not get the accents right for *Hay Fever*, so *The Little Foxes* is and I'm happy because Regina is a great part. No, I haven't run the movie any more than I saw *Virginia Woolf* in the theatre before we filmed—I'm a natural mimic and there is too much danger of picking up other people's tricks. Believe it or not this is my first appearance on stage. When I talked over *Foxes* with John he said: 'If you're going to plunge, plunge.' I'm plunging."

John Higgins

Aspects of Max Wall Garrick

Irving Wardle

One little number that has dropped out of Max Wall's act is his "awful" cellophane. "Wall's the name. He is all over the place nowadays, familiar alike to Beckett and Coronation Street audiences, and more securely entrenched as a national institution than any comic since George Robey."

However, dangerous this might be for a younger artist, it is no hindrance to the old party in the baggy black tights. If there are any fears that he might be going dignified or getting topical, they are squashed as flat as the flea that interrupts his Rachmaninov solo by his first walk-on, executing a chain of paralytic enchaînements, and culminating in a flourish with his index finger.

Waiting for *Godot*, to which he is returning later this year, was once described as a play in which nothing happens, twice, and you could say the same of his own show. He talks about "the act" with reverence, always promising that it is just going to start; and discussing the scale of laughter from the first belly laugh to a solemnly as an American backer doing statistical breakdowns of the chuckle-count.

But there are no belly laughs in his two and a quarter hours, and no routine that goes on for longer than a couple of

minutes. An act is something foisted on the people it happens to; and Mr Wall's speciality is not domination but contact. What he wants, and what the spectator wants, is simply for him to be in public.

Those who saw the Aspects last time round will be pleased to learn that he still attacks the grand piano as if fresh from Dr Frankenstein's operating table and takes several stunned minutes to recover from the suicidally prolonged crumpler call at the end of "Sweet Sixteen". There are also lightning impressions of Charles Laughton, Jessie Matthews, and a cocker spaniel; evocations of Mr Wall's first love, "Lillian Hellman"; and memories of standing in for indisposed German girls on the Folies Bergères staircase. But the fun always lies in between the gaps: in the transformation of the sweetly smiling Wall-let-into the out-crinkler snarl of Wall-Hyde; his disgusted reaction to laughter at gags he despises; and the free-wheeling of his act, or may not lead him back on to the rails.

He treats the house partly as a showbiz intimates, and partly as innocents to whom he is spilling the professional beans: either stamping with who he is, or thinking ("You've noticed I've gone serious"), or explaining exactly what he is doing. "You see what I'm getting at? I've led you back to the focal point of the whole thing," he purrs; then the eyes go up in hopes and despair that he is wasting his breath on us.

Do Not Disturb ICA

Ned Chaillet

In Cardiff there is an ambitious and frequently delightful arts centre known as Project Arts, which regularly offers residences to some of the more experimental theatrical troupes. A company which has recently benefited from a residency there is *Hesitate and Desist*, a performance group radically descended from the People Show and Robert Wilson. The special quality they have is a feminine vision and with it they paint dramatic pictures, largely without words. *Do Not Disturb* is the result of their work at Project Arts and it makes for an evocative and haunting evening, although it challenges traditional concepts of drama.

Their environment for the performance is particularly elaborate and beautiful, an old English family home that has been converted into a country house hotel. It is first seen as if by moonlight, when a guest arrives with suitcases in hand, walking through autumn leaves

while within there are traces of movements such as a hand cut at the wrist. The house is opened to reveal some of the inner rooms where people meet or go quietly about their business.

No one speaks in the production, but there is a constant sound track which includes sounds abstractly related to the stage pictures. More often the sound is musical, but it includes also dogs barking, vacuum cleaners, chatter in the hallways and a jumble of breakfast news bulletins as two guests separately enjoy their breakfast. The actions and the sounds are orchestrated with a technical precision that is faultless, but it is the presence of the silent actors that adds a dramatic quality, rather like the movement of the pieces in a game of Cluedo. Liza Aikin, Alex Mavrocorator and Geraldine Pilgrim bring a playfulness to their performance which is charming, even though their activities are strange: a woman has a drink over an illuminated bath tub, a man furtively tears a page from the hotel register and the two women jealously share the professional attentions of a hairdresser. It is a game of echoes and images.

Philharmonia/Haitink Festival Hall/Radio 3

Barry Millington

Seasoned Mahlerian that he is, Bernard Haitink knows well that the incongruities, the jarring juxtapositions, which pepper a Mahler score are on no account to be apologized for. They are (dates or gaffs?) the salt that judiciously handled can make a performance one of real quality. Such an interpretation was given of Mahler's third symphony on Monday by the Philharmonia under Haitink.

In the half-hour first movement, nature is depicted wild and raw, sometimes sweet but often harsh and uncompromising; nature, that is, as personified by Pan. The banal jostles with the profound, the vulgar with the portentous, and Haitink's score is a perfect balance in full measure. But at the same time, without sacrificing their individuality, he drew them together; it is his sureness in transforming an assemblage of disparate elements into a coherent whole that makes Haitink one of the finest Mahler conductors of our time. Having laid such solid foundations with that opening

movement, he was well on the way to giving a classic interpretation, and we were not disappointed. The five subsequent movements, dealing in their different ways with the human and divine, he welded together into a structure that balanced, and rightly so, the given personal movement that on its own formed part one. Pan and anarchy make a brief reappearance at the end of the third movement but ultimately they are no match for the healing, redeeming force that comes in the final so eloquently in the final three movements.

These movements are stitched together, again not seamlessly: the heartstopping melody that opens the final Adagio came in Haitink's hands, and effectively so, as a new inspiration after the angelic celebrations of the fifth movement. The ladies of the Philharmonia Chorus, and the Southern Boys Choir, as reliable as ever, gave voice to the celestial beings, while Alfredo Hodgson contributed a rich, measured contralto solo. A few over-exuberant phrases apart, the Philharmonia played the Mahler score with more than the partnership of this calibre in store for us.

Camerata Bern Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stephen Pettitt

Incoherent programmes frequently fall flat through an inability or unwillingness of either players or audience (or both) to cope with contrasting styles in one concert. That offered on Monday by the Camerata Bern, a small ensemble of 14 string players, was a golden exception to the rule.

This group, led by Thomas Furi, has made a reputation in this country largely through its association with Heinz Holliger in recordings of eighteenth-century music, in particular that of Zelenka and more recently the Mannheim composers. Consequently, it was all the more of a surprise to hear them play with such finesse in Elgar's early *Serenade* for Strings, a thoughtful gesture to their hosts. Their small size lent fresh clarity, yet in no way was the work's

rightful romanticism denied it. Particularly impressive was the Larghetto, where unanimity was preserved even in its finely judged rubato and poised somnolence. Grieg's personal chestnut, the *Hørbare Suite*, was performed with equal aplomb, made to sound as fresh as a spring daisy, though not lacking full-sized bloom when it was needed.

Returning to a more familiar patch, an attractive and neatly-played Concerto in G attributed to at least two others as well as Pergolesi bode well for the following Flute Concerto in E minor, most definitely by the Mannheim composer, Franz Xaver Richter. Auricle Nicolet, looking quite demented, gave a penetratingly intense edge to the limpid central Andantino, adventurously in C major, while the hybrid half-baroque, half-classical outer movements were full of brilliant colours. His partners, ever sensitive, were neither too romantic nor insipid, as can often happen with modern-style players in such music.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Book review

Ideas and the Novel

By Mary McCarthy

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson 14.95)

The chapters that make up this book were given as the Northcliffe Lectures at London University last year. In them Mary McCarthy first examines the effect of Henry James on the "serious" novel, before going back in history, alighting principally on the nineteenth century, to see what fiction

itself "lost" as a result of James's achievement. On the modern novelist who also sets out to be an artist James has, Miss McCarthy insists, been a near-fatal influence; the treatment of ideas, philosophical, social, which was central to the very concept of the novel at its apogee in Europe, has been virtually proscribed (only the New York Jewish school and a few archaizing individuals are allowed to have flouted the ban). It can't honestly be pre-

tended that Miss McCarthy pursues this dubious thesis with the greatest of intellectual rigour and for once, perhaps, one can agree with the terms of a publisher's blurb. A "swift excursion over the whole terrain of fiction" is conducted in "lightly depicted sentences" in 100 odd pages of loosely packed print would promise trouble ahead, even if we were in the presence of a species of thought of unusual concentration. And frankly we are not, in *Ideas and the Novel*.

Certainly the book sprouts ideas in abundance; and some of them are good ones. Generally Mary McCarthy's thesis, as far as it exists, hangs together on what she has to say about the French novel: she is good on Balzac and Hugo.

But the colloquial witticisms begin to seem threadbare, particularly when she turns to the novel in English. To commend George Eliot's "tolerance" while deriding her intellect seems to beg a host of ques-

tions; and to compare the operation of that intellect in the novel directly with Dostoevsky's, is unsound. The mention of Melville and Marryat in the same breath as "salon" novelists whatever the point is meant to serve, is unhelpful in understanding either. And it will just not do—smart though its sounds—to talk of Jane Austen being "to the novel as Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* were to *The Prelude*."

Essentially, though, the book

rests on a charge against James which is flimsily brought. There may be such a charge to make, but Miss McCarthy's conduct of the case for the prosecution leaves too many questions unanswered. Whence the limitations James appeared to impose on successors, his acute awareness of the creative predicament itself warrants more precise examination of his motives.

Peter Davies

The Daumier exhibition restores Bernard Levin's faith in the Royal Academy.



Daumier exhibits at the Royal Academy: a cast bronze, *Ratapoli*, and two lithographs, *l'eau de puits de Grenelle*, and *J'suis d'Garde à la merrie* (sic).

On the right side, and witty with it

On the whole, I regard Dr Armand Hammer as a Bad Thing; he was a lot too thick with Lenin, and has been in something of an ongoing cabaret situation with the celebrated Bolshevik's heirs, and assigns ever since. What is more, I am by no means sure that he has used a long enough spoon when supping with the bastards, or indeed much wished to. It is not, however, in his capacity of *homo dubius* that I salute him this morning, but in that of art-collector, and one of the shrewdest and most understanding of modern times.

He has been collecting pictures (and giving them away) for more than half a century, and his most recent butterfly, 5,000 specimens of which he netted at one go in 1976, is Daumier. Of his vast collection, some 240 items are to be seen at the Royal Academy until next month: I went to see them partly because I have always been fascinated by Daumier and have never seen a lot of his work together, and partly because ever since I saw the Academy's own show, *A New Spirit in Painting*, I have been unable to take any solid food, my hair has started to fall out in a most distressing manner, and I have woken screaming in the middle of the night at least three times a week; the neighbours have now started to complain, so I thought that by going to see something good at the Academy

I might be restored to full health. It is too early to be sure that the trick has been successful, but at any rate the green wickerwork men have stopped riding their bicycles round the brim of my hat, so perhaps everything is going to be all right.

The most important thing about Daumier is that he was on the right side, and moreover in the right way. I shall discuss what I mean by that in a moment, but in any case the most important aspect of his work is not the first to be noticed by a visitor to the exhibition: what leaps off the walls is the astounding quality of his draughtsmanship, and the reason it is astounding is that the line is not in the least fine, indeed it is positively impressively at times, and a huge proportion of the lithographs (most of the items in the exhibition are lithographs, as most of his work was in that medium) could easily be crayon or charcoal drawings. Yet if you look at such examples of this technique as the delightful No 46, in which an unsuccessful artist is seen destroying his rejected work or the mordant No 19, a study of the great enemy, Louis-Philippe, the optical illusion is complete; you feel you can count every hair on their heads separately. Daumier must have had a hand of incredible steadiness, and a confidence no less exceptional to guide it, so meticulous is the result,

so unmercifully the technique.

The next thing to be noticed is the range, which is the subject of another confounding-trick. He really only had two subjects; the baseness of those who ruled France, with a few very brief intervals, throughout his adult life, and the absurdity, endearing and quaint or greedy and cowardly, of the bourgeoisie. He was fascinated by lawyers and obsessed by Don Quixote, but the rulers and the ruled formed the staple of his diet. You would think that that would inevitably mean monotony in so large an exhibition, but you would be wrong, because the variety of changes that Daumier rang upon these two themes was absolutely inexhaustible, and there is no question of the visitor being assid.

This remarkable quality can be seen at its best in the set of bronzes that fill a series of glass cases in the Reynolds Room, and if you want to see them, you had better hurry, because I propose to speak in one night very shortly and steal the lot; I do not think I have ever broken the Tenth Commandment with such comprehensive intensity in all my life. There are 36 of them; they are portraits of the members of Louis-Philippe's government, and the clay is moulded with genuine hate, so that the spectator passes along the row

assailed by cunning, meanness, folly, corruption, cowardice, stupidity, hypocrisy, cruelty and every other imaginable form of swinishness that human beings can be possessed of. Now 36 variations on such a theme would not normally be expected to hold the attention unwaveringly, yet I paced back and forth along the row again and again, seeing more and more in this amazing gallery of savage rebuke every time.

Well, Daumier was a genius. But that is only the general conclusion of the magic wrought here; the particular one is that although the busts are indeed caricatures, the subjects do not become simply the attributes Daumier has seen in them—they are never, that is, debauched. It is at this point that the comparison which until then has been tugging at the visitor's sleeve collapses; Gerald Scarfe has never learned that hate is not enough, and I do not believe it would be possible to look at a similar number of his caricatures of politicians and other enemies without becoming very rapidly and unthinkingly the way in which, brilliant as he is, at catching an expression or characteristic of his victims, he allows them nothing of humanity at all. A human villain is more frightening, not less, than a monster, because he reminds us that we are made of the same stuff. That is Daumier's greatest achieve-

ment even more easily seen in his studies of domesticity.

Or rather, that is his second greatest achievement. The most important of all is that he was on the right side of the right reasons. His directly political work has the zest and gaiety possessed by all the greatest satires of the windmills of oppression; if only he had been alive during the Dreyfus case! For far too long now, the opponents of authority have wanted only to replace it by their own version, often a good deal worse (see any statement by any representative of the Marxist Left). More subtly, they are characterized by a mean and whining spirit and a lack of any kind of sense of humour; as the passion of Voltaire for Shaw, Heine or Ben Jonson. The effect is extraordinarily heartening, and not only restores a wavering belief in the willingness of brave men and women to resist tyranny, but reinforces the most important truth of all: that in the end, tyranny must fall.

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Labour and the leadership red herring

Paul Routledge, *The Times* Labour Editor, was totally wrong in his appraisal (Jan 28) of Mr Frank Chapple's speech at the Labour Party special conference at Wembley. The reasons are deeply rooted in the history of the Labour Party.

A significant say in determining who should be the leader of the Labour Party is not something which should be grudgingly conceded to the trade unions because it was the unions which created and sustained the party.

The Labour Party was the natural outcome of the enfranchisement of the working class, the growing strength of the trades union movement and the class biased state apparatus of Parliament and the judiciary.

Mr Routledge's article made the assumption that the trade unions have "muscle in" and taken over the party. On the contrary, the party was formed following a decision of the Trade Union Congress whose interest in creating a political party representing Labour had been stimulated by a series of judicial decisions which effectively destroyed union industrial, bargaining power.

The party was created to represent those who had nothing to sell but their labour and who were being prevented by the courts from exercising their market power. Workers simply emulated the rich and powerful who effectively control and direct the Tory Party.

Historically, it is impossible to contemplate a Labour Party detached from the organized Labour movement. The Labour Party is a federal body and it is this structure which gives it strength.

The gang of three, whom Mr Chapple supports, like to ignore this fact. For them a united and effective Labour movement is permanently upset; the balance between capital and labour. For them fighting with capitalism suffices.

To the question, "whose finger on the political trigger?" the answer must be: those members of the labour movement who are either individual or affiliated members of the Labour Party. It is a red herring, and Mr Chapple knows it, to link communists, fascists and Conservatives as "outsiders" who will influence the election of the Labour Party leader.

Communists are almost invariably political levy paying members. They are not allowed to be individual members of the party, but work alongside Labour Party members in building and strengthening organization both industrial and politically to shift the balance of power and wealth towards working people.

Conservatives within the trade union movement do no share this common objective. It is not surprising, therefore, that communists are more heavily represented than Conservatives in an organization that opposes employers. Conservatives within the trade union movement face the contradiction of being the adversary and ally of their employer at both the industrial and political level.

Trade union organization provides the only possible financial support for the Labour Party. But more important it brings the Labour Party the strength of a movement which represents twelve million workers. The policy for mobilization process of individual unionists face the contradiction of being the adversary and ally of their employer at both the industrial and political level.

At conference, union block votes are not wielded at the whim of union leaders but in accordance with the agreed policies of the union. These policies all union members can help formulate. The union block votes do not constitute an undivided voting strength. The political differences which exist between unions ensure that no single paper can call a united tune.

The press rarely draws attention to the influence held within the Tory Party by big business.

This contrasts with the political power bought by capitalists whose finances boost Tory funds. Policy formulation within the Tory Party involves just a few influential employees and business people feeding in their ideas. There is no widespread discussion. But the press rarely draws attention to the influence held within the Tory Party by big business.

Compare, for instance, the extensive Tory cuts in higher income tax rates with Labour's suggestion of cutting income policies and consider which party is more influenced by its paymasters.

Those like Mr Chapple's gang who favour the "one person one vote" system of electing Labour's leader, are in reality, this fundamental class division between the parties. For years they have sought to obscure it by policies which amount to little more than capitalism with a human face. The decision at Labour's special conference has reversed this process and has recovered its class base of the party.

Mr William Rodgers said recently that changes in the special conference decision would not resolve the problem of the gang of three. This underlines the point that argument over the electoral college is a question of policy, not simply percentages.

Now that the constitutional issues have been decided, the Labour Party needs to concentrate on developing policies which will provide a positive alternative to the most reactionary Conservative Government this country has ever seen. The Labour Party must address itself to those problems which threaten the future of Britain as an industrial nation—mass unemployment, plummeting manufacturing capacity and low industrial investment.

Ken Gil
The author is General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

How long can Poles walk the tightrope?

Mark Bonham Carter on the pitfalls facing Solidarity

In Poland jokes have long been an accurate guide to the political temperature. A current joke runs as follows: If our Russian comrades in association with our allies came to help us, who would a patriotic Pole shoot first, and why? The answer is, first a German from duty, second a Russian for pleasure.

On arrival in Poland the possibility of Russian intervention seems more remote than from outside.

Few of the people I met raised the issue. This is partly because the threat of intervention has been made so frequently by the authorities and more recently by the outside media that people are inoculated against it; partly because the Poles adopt, not least for historical reasons, a fatalistic attitude to the possible behaviour of their neighbours.

In the past German and Russian policy towards Poland has been so clearly inspired by motives that have had little to do with Polish behaviour—though a great deal to do with her geographical position—that Poles feel their own actions have little influence on events. As one of them said, American-Russian relations may well be more important in deciding the fate of Poland than anything that happens within the Polish People's Republic. Hence President Reagan's belligerent and simplistic statements about the policy of

the Soviet Union send a shiver down many Polish spines. Nevertheless, although intervention does not feature prominently in the political discussions which are today taking place at all hours throughout Poland, and which are being conducted with unprecedented freedom, it is always in the background. A leading member of Solidarity said: "Everyone knows that if we wished to, we could turn out the Government tomorrow, but of course we won't. And they won't because of the protection it would be to the Soviet Union."

But if the Politbureau and the Government appear vulnerable, Solidarity is not a highly disciplined or easily controlled movement. To oversimplify, membership of eight million which has been collected in just under six months presents problems. Solidarity is a protest against the discontents which have accumulated over 35 years of Socialist Government. It is underpinned by the authority of the Church which has steadily grown, helped by the Pope's visit.

The most obvious fact about Solidarity is that it is led by the past generation. The expectations and aspirations are very different from those of their parents. Being without personal experience of terror, they have inherited, as I was constantly reminded, the romantic Polish tradition of "heroism".

The leadership of Solidarity,

all in their twenties and thirties with their open necked shirts and sporting their Solidarity badges, look the living embodiment of the Marxist worker-hero. But they are not all that they seem. Behind them and advising them but not inspiring them are the members of the intelligentsia and the Church. In Poland the alliance between workers and intellectuals, so yearned for on the Left in the West, has occurred in opposition to incompetent and apparently corrupt totalitarianism, or even the dilemma facing Solidarity is no less acute than the Government's. It dare not overthrow the Government not only from fear of precipitating Soviet intervention, but also because no one supposes Solidarity capable of even the desirous of governing the country. And overshadowing the drama of politics in Poland today hangs a catastrophic economic position, the inheritance of mismanagement by successive administrations and more immediately from the massive over-investment in the 1970s, aggravated by continuous disruption through strikes since last August.

Solidarity is a vast populist movement which has been flung together at breakneck speed. It is at present dealing with a series of crises precipitated by its own existence and at the same time trying to sort out the process of conducting elections at branch level. These will be fol-

lowed by regional elections and will culminate in the election of a national executive some time in March.

They will be the first free elections to have been held in Eastern Europe since 1947 and they will, if allowed to be completed, confer on Solidarity a legitimacy which the party Congress will find it hard to match.

Several conversations I had with men of experience, patriotism and good faith made me ask myself whether there was any way forward which would not lead to one of those tragedies with which Polish history is littered. In a situation where the future is difficult to discern, there may be some glimmers of hope. First the Russian position.

There is a story prevalent in Poland allegedly told by an old Polish general who had served in the Russian army during the last war. He had held high command in Poland and shortly before the German invasion he had been summoned from the front to see Stalin. He obeyed, fearing that his fate was sealed. When he met Stalin he was complimented on his military successes and then asked what policy the Soviet should pursue in Poland. Trying to give an answer that would not be used against him, he proposed a substantial Soviet occupation, combined with heavy indoctrination of the young together with the imposition of a communist regime in all its rigour.

To this Stalin had responded by saying: "Though you may be a very good general, you are a very stupid politician. I do not much care if Poland is a socialist, Catholic or democratic state or even a kingdom so long as a pro-Russian party is in control. Poland's importance must be not ideological, it is strategic and geographical."

If the Soviet Government can be convinced of Polish loyalty to the Warsaw Pact, the major change that has taken place in Polish life as a result of the emergence of Solidarity might be accommodated.

At the same time, to rescue Poland from its economic crisis Solidarity must restrain its members from making unreasonable demands about wages and hours of work. This in turn will be possible only if a far greater degree of confidence can be established between the authorities and Solidarity. But if these conditions can be satisfied there are those, even among the pessimists, who believe Poland might succeed in maintaining within a Socialist economy and within the Soviet sphere of influence free unions which could act as a check on the authorities.

Such an outcome depends on the Soviet Union taking the risk that neither Russia nor the other Eastern European countries would be unduly contaminated by the Polish example. But the situation is unprecedented, and the consequences for the Soviet Union



Workers in Solidarity's headquarters in Warsaw.

of intervention would be horrendous. The achievement of a settlement depends largely on Polish prudence. It also demands enlightened self-interest on the part of the Soviet Union and the West.

The position of the Polish state derives from agreements reached between the West and the Soviet Union. If Poland fell off the board, the settlement then reached would lie in ruins and the immediate consequences would be demands for the reunification of Germany which the Federal Democratic Republic would find it impossible overtly to resist. No one else in the Western world would wish to see that issue revived and to this extent, East and West have

certain shared interests, despite profound differences in many other areas. No one is asking the United States or members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to change their position on Afghanistan. But it does not follow from this that the rhetoric in which President Reagan has been indulging will do much for Afghanistan and it may make a Polish position even harder to resolve. It is to our advantage that the gains made in Eastern Europe in the years of détente, and those recently won in Poland, should be preserved. We have a responsibility towards Poland that demands a modicum of self-restraint not least in the light of self-interest. So, does the Soviet Union.

LONDON DIARY

Making the small time at No 10

Any suggestions that the Prime Minister and her principal lieutenants may be about to turn soft on their rigidly monetarist economic crusade should be instantly dispelled by an announcement from Downing Street yesterday about Mrs Thatcher's next party.

Managers and employees from 36 of Britain's most successful small and medium companies have been invited to place next Monday evening. The inclusion of employees this time is important: Mrs Thatcher held a similar do last March for her favourite small businessmen, but omitted to ask along any of their workers.

The Prime Minister's office was circulating the list of acceptances yesterday, along with an explanatory note: "They all have in common a spirit of enterprise and make a valuable contribution to Britain's prosperity. Also attending the reception will be a number of ministers including Industry

Secretary Sir Keith Joseph, and others interested in promoting the success of enterprise."

Thumbnail sketches of the guests are appended. There is Mr Green the financier: "He is not a sleeping partner but works within the company to help it attain its objectives." And Mr Beaver the banker: "Beaver is a banker by profession and has brought an imaginative and sympathetic approach to small company finance." And Mr Winkles the other banker: "An imaginative financier with a good entrepreneurial spirit."

Then there is Mr Griffiths the engineer, who found himself with spare space in his factory and gave it over to "entrepreneurial activities therein."

Perhaps this galaxy of entrepreneurial talent could put their heads together and come up with an enterprising way of employing all those miners who are forced to watch their jobs disappear in the name of rationalization.

Hard cash

I learn from the National Westminster Bank that they will open today their first

service till in a factory. A service till, for anyone who still clings to the older, simpler and cheaper system of banking under the mattress, is a slot machine which coughs up money in return for a taste of the correct plastic card; a minor condition is that you actually have some in a Natwest account.

According to Natwest the installation of the machine at the Alcan Plate factory in Birmingham is part of their drive to attract what they call "the unbanked", a term I find depressingly reminiscent of the Orwellian world which is only three years away. It equates those without bank accounts with the unclean, the unwashed, the uneducated, and the undesirable.

But I find it surprising that they should put a cash machine in a factory at all. The way things are going in the West Midlands these days, with the latest figures showing a quite appalling rise in unemployment of 32 per cent in the last year, by far the highest anywhere in the country, the unbanked are also the unemployed. Perhaps a more appropriate site for Natwest's next machine would be the nearest jobcentre.

How well do Customs officers search vehicles? I hear that a parcel of new out-of-print music by the French composer Durufle has been shuttling between Britain and the Continent for six months, lost in the bowels of a coach which was searched several times at British ports. The choir which bought the £200 score in Paris had to rearrange its programme because the music was lost. It was eventually found in the luggage compartment by a driver, while giving his bus a sprucing clean.

Gang away?

Manoug Nicolian is a wealthy Armenian-born textile merchant who feels that the emergent Council for Social Democracy would do a lot better if it had a more upmarket address. After all, the doctor most associated with Limehouse before David Owen was Fu Manchu. Nicolian has therefore written to Owen and Roy Jenkins offering them the use of his sumptuous new £150,000 mansion at Kintbury, Berkshire, as a party headquarters.

Nicolian said yesterday that



the house, which is nearing completion, is discreetly situated in parkland, has four spacious bedrooms and an abundance of reception rooms for entertaining. "It will make

an ideal retreat where the Labour breakaway movement can plan and organize in peace and quiet the formation of a Party of the centre", he said.

So far, none of the Gang-Of-Four has taken up the offer. In spite of the carrot of financial help to the infant movement from Nicolian, who says he votes Tory but dislikes the leftward movement of Labour.

The Kintbury mansion does have its drawbacks. It is 80 miles from London; Berkshire is perhaps just a little too posh; and it is sited in the grounds of a health farm whose clients include a number of overweight Conservative MPs.

Living high

Those much-abused tower blocks of council flats, which proliferated in the 1960s and early 1970s, may after all have a future, one of which I am sure the present Government would heartily approve. While several local authorities are preparing to demolish them, and in one or two cases, have already done so, others are taking the more imaginative course of "living them off" to private enterprise.

Hard on the heel of the news that Liverpool city council has exchanged contracts for the sale of the vandalized and uninhabitable "piggeries", I am now informed of an even more advanced scheme in Edinburgh. Somewhat to the surprise of the Department of the Environment which disclaims responsibility for anything that happens north of the border, the previously dilapidated 23-storey Marleto Court, in Muirhouse, has been refurbished for sale.

The whole process has taken barely a year, and the two-bedroom flats are being snapped up at around £10,000 each. The young man responsible, John Mackay, describes the development as both socially acceptable and socially conscious, so it may be slightly churlish to remark that residents will be protected from socially unacceptable elements by a 11ft high perimeter wall.

Here's o me

Here is a useful hint on etiquette, passed down to me from a highly placed source, should you ever be asked to dine with

a Very Highly Placed Person. My man was dining at Barmoral as part of the entourage of the then Prime Minister (now retired to the back benches). Another member of the Downing Street party, clearly unused to eating at such a high level, was a keen smoker. He fidgeted and bit his fingernails throughout the meal until he could contain himself no longer.

"Do I have to wait for the loyal toast until I can smoke?" he whispered to the Queen's private secretary.

Just remember where you are: the secretary breathes back. "She isn't going to toast herself, is she? You can smoke whenever you like."

I have had a desperate appeal from the parents of an 11-month-old boy in Whiteparish, Wiltshire, who was born on February 29 last year. They hope one of my readers can tell them, on the basis of either irrefutable logic or his toric precedent, whether to celebrate the lad's third birthday on February 28 or March 1.

Alan Hamilton

هكذا من الأصل



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

JOB PROTECTION IN THE PITS

The Government are right to forestall the momentum of events in the coal industry and seek an immediate meeting with miners' leaders and National Coal Board officials. The unofficial strike begun yesterday in South Wales threatens to create an atmosphere of crisis which will make it more difficult for the negotiators on either side to find the compromise which can and should resolve this dispute. On the union side, approaching internal elections add pressures of their own. Memories of 1974, and the political hopes are adding an artificial drama to an issue where no fundamental differences of policy divide the opponents.

The miners have always accepted that old pits have to close. Joint machinery exists to discuss how and when to close them, and the lives of 40 pits have been ended in the last seven years, with no serious conflict except in one or two cases. But no agreed criteria exist for assessing when a mine is no longer viable, and the recession has put a double strain on the system. For the management, constrained by cash limits, the sharp fall in demand for coal has made it more difficult to afford the cost of loss-making pits. For the miners, unemployment has increased resistance to the disappearance of any more jobs.

It is common ground that no simple calculation of profit or loss is adequate to determine the fate of a pit. The NCB has many pits where coal has been mined at a loss for years. Apart from the need to provide some stability of employment in communities dependent on the local pit, coal is a natural resource whose stocks are ultimately limited (though plentiful at the

moment), and it is in a wider sense unthrifty to abandon for ever seams that can be exploited at only a moderate loss.

Both sides have the long-term interests of the industry at heart. The miners' leaders are fond of rhetoric about their having no right to disinherit future generations of miners. In that perspective, the marginal pits must be of less importance than the big investment programmes in new coalfields. There is a strong case on grounds of national self-sufficiency in energy for securing the future of a healthy indigenous coal industry, and great progress has been made towards that recently, especially in production per man. But even so, more money in recent years has gone into refurbishing old pits than into the provision of new capacity. It would be self-defeating for the union to seek to tilt the balance still further that way.

The NCB's investment programme will always involve choices of this kind, and the recession would have made them increasingly painful under any Government. But the financial objectives were imposed in the Coal Industry Act last year has limited the NCB's range of action much more sharply. The industry is to be required to pay its way without operating subsidies by 1983-84. Self-sufficiency is an excellent aim in principle, but since the Act was framed, the recession has made it an impossible one to achieve without a far more rigorous policy towards the loss-making sector than was envisaged. It is an aim to work towards, but not one that it is worth striving to achieve in three years' even if the cost is a national coal strike.

In 1974 both sides of the industry agreed on a national plan for coal which predicted a closure rate of three to four million tonnes capacity a year in the first decade—a target never actually sustained. Now the board is looking for closures of more like 10 million tonnes over the next year. A change of policy as sharp as that cannot be accomplished without preparation and negotiation. But the fundamental economic situation is one that cannot be negotiated away, and the union must see the danger of jeopardizing the long-term future of the industry for the sake of some short-term pitis.

The miners' leaders claim to be contemptuous of offers of the "tools"—gold of transfer payments, redundancy payments, and the like. As in the steel industry, the workers themselves may think differently. Ample and effective provision to ease the social consequences of closure can be a good bargain for both sides—and certainly more rewarding for British industry than the ban on coal imports sought by Mr. Gormley, which would simply transfer the problems of uneconomic pits to the uneconomic steelworks which survive only by use of cheap imported coal.

Both sides in the talks will have to keep their shared interest in the future of their industry well in view, resisting short-term pressures. A national strike would be long, and uncertain in its outcome despite the high stocks of coal above ground and the new rules on picketing. It would do serious damage to manufacturing industry in its present condition. It would also jeopardize the long-term development of the coal industry against the interests of the miners themselves.

TALKING OF GERMAN UNITY

Herr Honecker, the East German party leader, must have done some serious thinking and consulting before suddenly raising the question of German unification in a speech to party workers on Sunday. He must also have consulted with the Russians. A subject of such reverberating significance is not brought lightly from the closet in which it has lain for so many years. But what his weighty reasons were can only be guessed at.

From the time of their creation until 1969 both German states formally held the view that reunification was their ultimate aim. For East Germany it would come with the victory of socialism; for the West Germans it would come with free elections. East Germany blamed the division on western imperialism in league with German capital; West Germany blamed it on Soviet imperialism in league with German communists. Each saw a solution only in terms of the victory of its own system. Each subscribed, whether explicitly or not, to the questionable notion that Bismarck's success in welding together a number of German states for a relatively brief period represented in some way the natural logic of German history.

The situation became more complicated when West Germany started its opening to the east and eventually established formal relations with East Germany under the treaty of 1972. The West German formula was "one nation, two states", and the aim was to keep the nation together by negotiating human contacts in return for recognizing the sovereignty of East Germany. The East Germans, however, wanted full recognition as an independent state. They wanted to put a final dampener on restless hopes of reunification and settle the frontiers of Europe once and for all. They wanted to be regarded by West Germany as a foreign country.

This the West Germans could not grant because their constitution obliges them to strive for reunification (as did the constitution of East Germany until it was amended). In their treaty, therefore, the two states agreed to differ on "the national question". Bonn conducts its relations not through the Foreign Ministry but through the Chancellor's office, and continues

to recognize only one nationality, which means that East Germans are automatically entitled to West German passports and full rights in West Germany.

East Germany, until now, has continued to compensate for the opening up of personal contacts with a systematic campaign to establish itself as a fully legitimate and permanent German state, heir to the revolutionary traditions of German history and custodian of the "progressive" elements in German culture. All talk of reunification ceased in the 1970s except for a brief reference by Herr Honecker in 1978. West Germany's references to the continuing existence of a German nation were dismissed as "nationalist demagoguery". It was explained that nations were the product of class struggle and that a shared history was irrelevant to the increasingly sharp distinction between the two German nations, one socialist, one bourgeois.

Herr Honecker's apparent modification of this line seems to open a new phase. Obviously he is on sound ideological ground. When communism eventually triumphs, as doctrine says it must, the class struggle will end, the nation state will wither away, and German worker will embrace German worker across the Elbe. Addressing the party faithful, Herr Honecker may have felt obliged to remind them in order to raise their morale and give them some words of hope to repeat at party meetings. East Germans are probably feeling a little lonely now. Their contacts with West Germany have been sharply reduced by the new regulations on compulsory exchange of currency, and seem further threatened by the deterioration of east-west relations as a whole. Their contacts with Poland have been reduced by the troubles there. Their wall is closing in again.

But perhaps the party leaders are also coming to admit to themselves that their attempts to confer historical legitimacy on their state have had only limited success. Even the recent exhibition of Prussian history and the erection of the statue of Frederick the Great in East Berlin have not wholly persuaded the people of East Germany that theirs is the more truly German Germany and that their future can be divorced from that of the artificial

American creation across the wall. Indeed, the national question is, by all accounts, discussed far more frequently and with more genuine concern in East Germany than in West Germany. Every reference to German history evokes in still more. Herr Honecker may feel, therefore, that if he cannot beat the trend he had better try to steer it in ideologically safe directions.

He could have other motives too. He is certainly aware that in West Germany there has been a sudden surge of interest in German history, coupled with a lively debate about attitudes to East Germany. The debate has recently been fuelled by an interview given by Herr Gaus, the departing head of the West German mission to East Germany, who called upon his countrymen to re-think their attitude towards East Germany in the light of German history, and to abandon their oversimplified view of Bismarck's work. Others have chimed in to point out that the German nation, whatever it is, has never been contained within one state. This debate must be spilling over into East Germany and although it should be welcome as pushing West Germans towards greater acceptance of East Germany, any debate about German history is bound to be unsettling in a state not truly persuaded of its own legitimacy.

So the main audience for Herr Honecker's remarks was probably intended to be domestic. But he also made sure they reached West Germany. Perhaps he wanted to tell Herr Schmidt that he was still interested in doing business. Perhaps he wanted to make Polish flesh creep at the thought of German reunification, thereby pointing up the value of alliance with the Soviet Union. But nearer the top of his mind may have been a wish to encourage the left wing Social Democrats. Some of them talk a lot about a German road to socialism which might bring the two states together in a synthesis of all that is best from east and west. Since these are often the same people who oppose increased defence spending, resist the stationing of American missiles in Europe, and criticize the United States more openly, Herr Honecker and the Russians would see such a natural ally in their attempts to weaken the western alliance.

Women in Parliament

From Mr Michael Steel
Sir, It is paradoxical that Mrs Barbara Castle (report, January 28) should deplore the low percentage of women in the House of Commons since she valiantly defends the primary cause—the British electoral system. The more candidates a party has to nominate at one go, the more likely it is to achieve a reasonable proportion of women: the figures that Mrs Castle quotes show the effect with startling clarity.

The United Kingdom, with a purely single-member system, is at the bottom of the league table with 3.2 per cent. France comes next, with 4.2 per cent. Here a single member system is used but each candidate is nominated with a named replacement, so for nominating purposes it is more like a two-member system. Women members of the Assemblée Nationale tend to come in as replacements. Then Ireland has a proportional system but in constituencies of only three or four members. Next Germany at 8 per cent; although their system is fully proportional, half

the seats are fought in single member constituencies and most women members of the Bundestag depend on the regional lists for election.

Finally come five countries, all with proportional representation in large regional constituencies. Three Catholic ones, which only gave women the vote after the Second World War, average 11.2 per cent. Top of Mrs Castle's table are two countries which extended the suffrage at the same time as Britain—Protestant Denmark (23.5 per cent) and mixed Netherlands (14.7 per cent).

Britain is culturally similar to these two countries. It should be a sobering thought for Mrs Castle that if Britain, like them, had adopted a fully proportional electoral system in 1918, there would now be over 100 women in the House of Commons.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL STEEL,
Department of Government,
Faculty of Economic and Social
Sciences,
University of Manchester,
Manchester.

Liberals on education

From Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Liberal)
Sir, Mrs Chicksfield (February 14) writes that she is waiting for liberals to utter a liberal word on the subject of parental freedom to spend their own money on educating their children as they think fit.

As far as Liberals with a capital L are concerned, she has no need to wait. We have consistently defended this basic civil right, and no Liberal government would take it away. We are passionately concerned to achieve the highest standards in the state education system on which the vast majority of children depend, and we are appalled at the cuts which, as HM Inspector has revealed, are lowering standards.

We do object strongly to the present Government's diversion of public funds from the state sector into private schools, but it is no part of our policy to enforce a state monopoly of education.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BEITH, Liberal Spokesman
on Education,
House of Commons.

Nationality Bill anxieties

From the Archbishop of Liverpool
Sir, In a Bill proposed a change in the basis of the right to nationality from being born in that country (jus soli) to the status of parents or blood (jus sanguinis), such a measure may well be thought to have racial implications in its administration.

Mr Ronald Butt (article, February 12) apparently considers such a suggestion "important". But it is at the heart of the anxiety felt by some of the ethnic minorities about the British Nationality Bill. It is to help allay such anxieties that an affirmation of the multiracial character of our national identity has been sought.

Should Mr Butt fail to understand why people question the acceptance of this multiracial character is self-evident, he might study the report in your newspaper of February 5 of the evidence submitted to the Home Secretary by the Joint Committee against Racial Discrimination.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK WORLOCK,
Archbishop of Liverpool,
Archbishop's House,
87, Green Lane,
Mossley Hill, Liverpool,
February 13.

From the Reverend R. Elliott Kendall
Sir, Ronald Butt, in his intemperate attack on Archbishop Worlock (February 12) implies that it is no business of the Archbishop and his colleagues to comment on the clauses of a Bill.

This is a strange doctrine. Surely every citizen should be encouraged to take a lively interest in parliamentary affairs. Well informed and intelligent people may properly voice support or criticism for aspects of proposed legislation. What sort of democracy does he want?

You, Sir, wrote in an editorial (July 31) when the White Paper on the subject was published, "Such proposals need to be examined with great care to see that they are really necessary and that they would not perpetuate a field in which a minor error in legislation becomes a major wrong to the individual". Church leaders have very clearly been following your wise advice.

Yours truly,
R. ELLIOTT KENDALL, Director,
Community and Race Relations Unit,
British Council of Churches,
2 Eaton Gate, SW1,
February 13.

Remands in custody

From the Honorary Secretary of the Justice Society
Sir, This society shares the fears of Lord Gardiner (February 13) about longer remands in custody. That is why, in our evidence to the Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons on February 9, we urged that remands in custody in excess of a week should be ordered only where the accused is legally represented and consents to this course.

The problems of the 28-day remand in magistrates' courts, however, fade into insignificance when compared with those of the accused who has been remanded in custody for a year or more. The Criminal Justice Act, 1967, which introduced the 28-day remand, was intended to be a temporary measure, but it has become a permanent feature of the criminal process.

That is why, in our evidence to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, we suggested the abolition of committal proceedings and the replacement by an application to discharge procedure. One of the grounds for discharge would be that the prosecution had been unduly tardy in bringing their case. We were glad to see that this proposal was accepted in essence by the Philips Commission.

Delay which is inimical to justice is unacceptable prevalent in some parts of the country and something must be done to control it.

Yours faithfully,
GERARD SULLIVAN,
Magistrates' Court,
PO Box 107,
Nelson Street, Bristol.

Family matters

From Mrs Caroline Woodroffe
Sir, I am beginning to believe that Mr. A. J. Rogers (February 12) would prefer to see a girl under 16 suffer an abortion or childbirth rather than allow her doctor to prescribe contraception to protect her from pregnancy.

Every year 2,000 girls under 16 have abortions and 1,300 girls under 16 have births. Maternal mortality among mothers under 16 is between three and four times higher than overall maternal mortality. The babies of these very young mothers are also at risk. For every 1,000 babies born alive to mothers under 16, 24 die before they are a year old.

Can moral outrage really be so cruel?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE WOODROFFE,
Chairman, Brook Advisory Centres,
133A East Street, SE17,
February 12.

Wrong pin-up

From Mr David Jamieson
Sir, I fear that in their rush to contribute to the Times on its newly-assured future, Messrs Dorland Advertising Ltd. have allowed the wrong caption to accompany the page 3 lovely. Published yesterday (February 13), the Charles Spirit of Ecstasy was sculpted in 1910 by Charles Sykes, modelled on Eleanor, secretary to Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, and cast for the first time in bronze on February 6, 1911, surely it becomes evident that Crew's 70-year-old Emily is, in fact, Beaulieu's 70-year-old Eleanor.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JAMIESON,
420 Rownd Drive,
Solihull, West Midlands.

Miners' strike: Some economic facts

From Mr Charles Wyatt
Sir, In the last decade the National Union of Mineworkers used its industrial muscle to push wages to a level where coal ceased to be priced competitively. As a result we were sucking in exports from Europe and elsewhere.

Rather than acknowledge that it employed its hand it now wants to attack the consumer/taxpayer in two more ways: first, by striking; and second, by having the Government subsidize the coal price.

Can the NUM seriously contend it is running the best interests of its members? Come the day when industrial logic rather than political dogma dominates its arguments, it may not have an industry to discuss.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WYATT,
26 Delving Road,
Parsons Green, SW6,
February 16.

From Mr Lewis Sergeant

Sir, In the forthcoming power struggle between the coal miners and our democratically elected Government could we please clear our minds about the performance of the NCB since nationalization? Although with increased mechanisation (and depreciation charges) the output per man has increased by about 50 per cent between 1947 and 1980, productivity (defined as output per man per pound at given levels of technology and extraction difficulty) has declined from an average of about 6.8 to 4.8 tonnes/man/pound at 1980 prices.

This decline would be greater still if depreciation charges were added to the denominator and would be directly comparable with the increase in cost of coal if the industry had not received substantial subsidies.

The whole raison d'être of the Thatcher Government is the link between productivity and pay. Yet most commentators still confuse productivity with output and ignore the financial aspects.

Yours truly,
LEWIS SERGEANT,
108 Horseferry Road, SW1,
February 16.

From Mr A. L. Pottersman

Sir, As we tumble along towards the post-industrial society, it's odd to see the puritan work ethic resuscitated by Mr. McGahey, the Scottish miners' leader. As he so fiercely wields his promised blacksmith's hammer, the unwelcome delight of the Tories' anvil (sic)—who is to be battered and moulded into submission? Presumably the miners themselves, without whom Mr. McGahey's own job ceases to exist.

Labour and the centre

From the Dean of Worcester College
Sir, Those who are contemplating forming or joining a new centre party should reflect on the likely consequences of their actions. The vote for the Labour Party at the last general election suggests that most of those who do not fancy the way that party has been going have already left. Mrs Williams and her friends are following, not leading, the voters.

A new party will draw the bulk of its support from the Conservatives. Given our first past the post electoral system a likely result of a strong centre vote will be that Labour will scrape home in a number of constituencies with a minority of the popular vote. Should such a situation arise, the centre and the right give a majority in the House of Commons to their opponents, it is unlikely that such a government would feel restrained from irreconcilable legislation by the fact that it had only a minority of the popular vote.

Those who, rightly, fear such a left-wing Labour government should make sure that they do not contribute to its coming in power. It will not be good regretting it afterwards.

Yours sincerely,
A. L. POTTSMAN,
Worcester College, Oxford,
February 16.

From Mr Raphael Levene

Sir, Mr Foot's belated efforts to react in his party the authority of the leadership, and acknowledge the constitutional channel for effecting political change must be through Parliament and not through picket-line, leave one voter of his own age group cynically unconvinced. In our youth Mr Foot played his part in endeavouring to alert the country to the threat of totalitarianism. In his afternoon years, publishing the face of totalitarianism, he has hardly less dangerous, if more insidious, from another quarter, the mantle which he has unwittingly assumed is not that of Chamberlain, but that of Neville Chamberlain.

The parallel is apposite in that it was a Tory member who found words for the doom-laden appeal for someone to "speak for England" that brought Chamberlain down; and if none of the standard-bearers

Development aid

From Lord Jellicoe and Mr Michael H. Caine

Sir, Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, recently announced that the emphasis of this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting will be on the problems of the Third World.

It is, therefore, paradoxical and a disappointing reflection on this country's sense of priorities that the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) should now be facing a funding crisis which seriously threatens to curtail the activities of what is certainly the Commonwealth's most successful development institution.

As your recent series of articles illustrated, CDC has justifiably earned an enviable reputation for successful basic development, particularly in agriculture. Above all, CDC is a financially established institution operating on the criterion of profitability—in sharp contrast to some development aid of the "hand-out" variety.

Repairs at Palace of Westminster

From the Master of the Worshipful Company of Masons
Sir, The Court of the Worshipful Company of Masons of the City of London have heard with considerable disquiet of the deterioration and need for extensive repair and reinstatement of the Palace of Westminster. They have studied the third and fourth reports from the Select Committee on House of Commons (Services). They have also noted the answers to the questions asked in the House of Commons on January 26 and are concerned at the limited nature of what is proposed.

The experts who have been consulted have advised on the need to proceed with cleaning and large-scale repairs to the fabric, but the present decision is that only studies which are in danger of falling in the proximity of the entrance doorways are to be attended to. We feel that the penalty of doing too little for too long is that so much has to be done in the end and at very greatly increased cost to the public purse.

The members of the court are fully aware of the financial difficulties at the present time. They recognize the obvious wish of the House to give a lead to the nation in so far as public expenditure is concerned. These buildings are, however, among the most famous in the world and they are seen by millions of overseas visitors every year. They cannot look after themselves and the older they get the more care they need. Delay in treatment may prove hazardous in the extreme.

The proof of this is surely abundantly clear in that almost every cathedral has in recent years had to launch a major restoration appeal.

It is the considered opinion of the various professional and technical members of the court of the company that the experts' report should be implemented in full and that a long-term programme should be undertaken even in the present economic conditions; the requisite skills exist.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT NOTT, Master,
The Worshipful Company of Masons,
9 New Square,
Lincoln Inn, WC2,
February 11.

EEC languages

From Sir Peter Vaneck, MEP for Cleveland (Conservative)

Sir, It is a nice coincidence that both the article on "Five factors combining to make English world language" and the article on "The EEC's Tower of Babel", appear in Monday's Times together.

I believe, on the one hand, that every member of the European Parliament has a right to speak and be understood in his mother tongue, and on the other that the number of official languages for documents must be drastically reduced. The increasing complexity of simultaneous interpretation, and the expense, will have to be faced whenever another nation joins.

It must be remembered, for instance, that there are few Greek-speaking Danes and vice versa, so that English or French has to come in as an intermediary with inevitable time lags (laughter in the various places) and diminished accuracy. But it would be quite unethical to expect all MEPs to be multilingual in debate. The documentary translation scene is totally different, highlighted by the Greek alphabet itself.

In my view the vast extravagance in paper, printing and distribution, let alone translation, must be cut at once to the "big four" before Spain and Portugal join. If difficulty is then experienced, national delegations must make their own less expensive arrangements. The fact is that adding one more official language is not a simple addition for the workload and cost but a compound one.

Now that we are making some progress towards the economy of a single seat for the Parliament, it is my intention to have a resolution to put forward a resolution to reduce our official languages for documents to English, French, German and Italian. But when will any time be considered appropriate by the other nations? The debate will be a heated one.

Yours truly,
PETER VANECK,
1st Floor,
City Gate House,
Finsbury Square, EC2,
February 16.

Musical enigmas

From Mr Norman Del Mar

Sir, The last thing I ever thought to do was to set Mr Bernard Levin to work on my shelves, prepared by me to go astray on two counts in today's article (February 11).

Well, as applied to works by Beethoven, stands for "Werke ohne Opuszahl"—i.e. works without opus numbers, which are listed and so numbered in Köchel, the Beethoven Köchel.

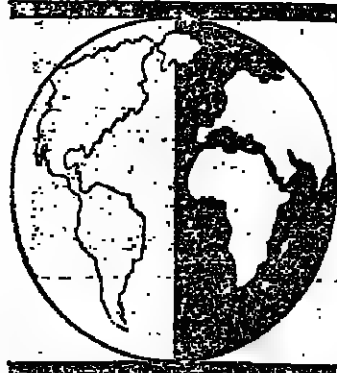
And, much though this dashes Mr Levin's prejudiced hopes, a beautiful green-bound complete catalogue, fully indexed, and Max Regner works stands on my shelves, prepared by Fritz Stein and published by Breitkopf and Härtel, clearly as an act of faith, since they published hardly any of the music itself.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN DEL MAR,
Witchings,
Hadley Common,
Hertfordshire.

The sleights of love

From Mr Robert Sopwith

Sir, My beautiful St Valentine's Day stamp is almost obliterated on a letter received today, ferociously stamped "Halspoken". Be properly addressed "Postcode it". Yours outschoutmastered, ROBERT SOPWITH, Heathcote, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire, February 14.



Italian trade deficit quadruples to £7,615m

Italy's trade deficit nearly quadrupled from £1,930m in 1973 to £7,615m in 1979, according to provisional figures shown last week.

Imports were up by 32.2 per cent to £5,389,000m, while exports rose by only 11.4 per cent to £6,730,000m. The tendency, however, is for the increase in imports to slacken and for exports to maintain their strength.

For the first time the balance of trade excluding oil was in deficit, at £1,200,000m. The sectors however were in surplus: textiles and clothing, which had a surplus of £727,000m and machinery and mechanical goods, which had a surplus of £622,000m.

China talks

The International Oil Trading Company and the Japanese Importers' Conference for Chinese Petroleum are to send negotiators to Peking this week to discuss China's demand that its crude price be raised to \$3.85 (£1.70) a barrel to \$3.90 backdated to January 1.

New Montedison talks

Signor Franco Foschi, Italian labour minister, is expected to lead a round of talks with representatives of Montedison and UNILC, the chemical workers' union, in a renewed effort to dissuade the company from declaring 6,281 workers redundant at plants throughout Italy.

Petrochemical complex

Iran has asked the Mitsui industrial group to resume the construction of a \$3,600m (about £1,535m) petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeini on the Gulf as soon as possible. Construction has been halted because of the Iran/Iraq war.

Swedish energy plan

The Swedish Government has proposed that state credit guarantees for energy development and for the funds for energy research be increased to reduce oil dependence to 40 per cent by 1990, from 70 per cent at present.

Arms strike continued

Workers at Fabrique Nationale de Herstal, in Belgium which supplies rifles and machine-guns to Nato armies, have rejected a compromise to end the week-old strike over job guarantees.

India protest

India is to protest to the World Bank over its withdrawal of a \$250m (£110m) loan for a fertilizer plant complex in Maharashtra, after India charged one of the consultants for the complex last year.

Steel dumping inquiry

The Canadian anti-dumping tribunal is to investigate a charge that the dumping in Canada of Spanish and Belgian processed steel wire could be harming local producers.

Loan request

Leading Japanese banks are seeking bigger quotas for participation in international syndicated loans because of increasing repayment of old syndicated loans before maturity.

Argentine reserves

The Argentine central bank is to raise the minimum cash reserve requirement for Argentine banks to 12 per cent from 11 per cent, from March 1.

Taiwan loan

Taiwan Power Corporation is to raise \$100m (£44m) over 10 years at a point over London interest rates, offered for the first five years, rising to 8 per cent thereafter.

Thai gas plant

The Thai Government has approved a plan to build a natural gas processing plant and related gas distribution facilities worth about \$315m (£142m) in the northern province of Rayong.

Canada retail sales

Canadian seasonally adjusted retail sales rose 0.2 per cent in December to \$7,440m (£3,296m), after a downward revised 3.12 per cent rise in November.

Mining stake

The Arab Mining Company (Amico) has taken a 40 per cent stake in two new mining companies that will develop silver, lead and zinc deposits in Morocco.

W.German oil imports

West Germany's oil imports in January fell to 7.16 million tonnes from 9.16 million a year ago, the Federal Office for Trade and Industry said.

Ruppee revalued

The Indian rupee has been revalued against sterling by 0.8 per cent to a new middle rate of 86.50 to sterling from 87.50.

Britain's largest industrial company out to reduce £1,000m bill ICI target of 5pc in energy saving

ICI, Britain's largest industrial company, has given itself a target of 5 per cent for energy savings in 1981. Last year it spent £1,000m on energy.

Officials are not yet able to estimate the likely energy bill for 1981, because it depends on energy saved, plant usage and, perhaps most important of all, rising prices for oil, gas, electricity and other raw materials like naphtha.

The magnitude of the company's task in ensuring it uses energy efficiently is illustrated by its Mond division with plants in Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cleveland.

Mond is the largest of the ICI divisions, traditionally representing between 15 and 20 per cent of the company's interests in assets, employees and sales, and employs about 15,000.

It produces alkalis, chlorine and its derivatives, fluorine-based chemicals, and extraction of lime and other products for use in steelmaking, agriculture and construction.

Mond claims to use 1 per cent of all the electricity generated in the United Kingdom and last year it spent £113m on energy. Because of increased consumer resistance during the recession, Mond has had to absorb much of these increased energy costs, reducing profits (not specified) by an estimated £15m.

Mr Donald Mackay, the division's finance director, explained that this year Mond expected to spend more than £160m for about the same amount of energy. He said that this would be "very difficult even to start to recover from customers".

Mond reduced its energy bill last year by about £3m—still short of the 5 per cent target set by Sir Maurice Hodgson, chairman of ICI. Mr Mackay is encouraged by the performance which, he says, was highly creditable because it was achieved on smaller and therefore less efficient levels of output.

He told the division's newspaper *Mond Mail*, that despite general exhortation and practical support, tight operating standards on plants could not be achieved by decisions taken at board level. "They can only come from hundreds of people on plants throughout the division understanding their processes better and trying to improve performance."

The Mond workforce is aware of the need to cut costs and improve productivity. Last year the division announced 1,000 redundancies which are being achieved through natural wastage and other voluntary means.

Mr Mackay believes that employees are more aware of the need to conserve energy. He quotes the example of boiler-men at the Cheshire works voluntarily

undergoing extra technical training to help them to increase the efficiency of the boilers. Mond spends about £60m simply raising steam.

"In these circumstances we have to be more efficient than our competitors in Continental western Europe because they have the advantage of paying much lower prices for energy, particularly electricity, than we pay in Britain," he said.

Along with other intensive energy users, not only in the chemicals industry, ICI wants the Government to end this cost disadvantage. It has suggested one way in which this might be done: by abolishing or reducing the present 58 a tonne duty on heavy fuel oil.

So far the Department of Energy—despite some pressure from elsewhere in Whitehall—has boded little on energy pricing, which it insists must be realistic and economic, reflecting the long-term, marginal cost of production.

Although the debate goes on—not least through the Task Force set up through the National Economic Development Office—chemical companies can expect little immediate relief.

Like ICI—which does, at least, benefit from a highly advantageous long-term gas supply contract with British Gas—they must continue to seek savings in energy.

John Huxley

Exporters 'failing to tap Mexico market'

By David Hewson

United Kingdom exporters are failing to take advantage of the fast-growing Mexican market, Lord Limerick, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said yesterday.

Addressing a conference on business and investment opportunities in Mexico, sponsored by *The Times* in association with the Overseas Trade Board, Lord Limerick said: "British companies should be working for more active involvement in Mexico's rapidly developing economy."

There was no doubt that the world was playing for high stakes in Mexico, and the United Kingdom should be more active in seeking a profitable share.

Lord Limerick, who visited Mexico twice last year, pointed out that with the backing of oil revenues which were the sixth largest in the world in



Lord Limerick: British companies should be more active.

proven revenues, Mexico was planning an 8 per cent annual economic growth rate for the rest of this century. The Mexican Government was seeking to invest this within the country's industrial base.

Britain supplies only 2.5 per cent of Mexican imports, its share totalling £188.1m in 1979, compared with £134.8m in 1978. Mexico already had a strong manufacturing base for a whole range of consumer products, and was now seeking to attract foreign investment in industrial developments, Lord Limerick said.

But the emphasis was now on joint venture investment for local production, especially of goods with export potential, rather than on direct import of goods.

Last year the United Kingdom Department of Trade signed a memorandum of

Lucas and BP in joint solar project

A solar system more useful to the sun-starved British because it relies on the light from the sun instead of heat is to be developed by the consortium of joint venture involving British Petroleum and Lucas Industries.

Small silicon discs the size of a beer mat and each capable of generating one watt of electricity from sunlight will be developed and marketed by the consortium. Ordinary solar panels absorb heat directly from the sun whereas silicon discs use light.

But they also work in sunnier climates. Lucas has already won a contract with the technology worth £1.2m to supply a sun-powered telephone network to Colombia.

The new company called Lucas BP Solar Systems will be based at Haddenham, Buckinghamshire and will be concentrating on what is termed the photovoltaic effect of silicon. The light from the rays of the sun is converted into electricity to be used for power.

BP is no stranger to solar energy development, having studied and marketed domestic solar panels in Spain and Greece.

BP's market in Greece has been expanding rapidly and is now worth £3m a year.

Lucas Energy Systems, a Lucas subsidiary, has been studying solar power for many years. The joint company will be investing heavily in research and BP already has solar rigs for experimentation at its laboratories in Sunbury, Middlesex, Athens, and Lavare in Northern France.

The market in solar energy is expected to be worth several million pounds in the next decade.

One of the first big projects for the new company is the design and construction of Britain's first grid-linked solar generating station.

This will be built at the Central Electricity Generating Board's Marchwood site.

Bill Johnstone

EEC grants £80m aid for projects in Britain

By Edward Townsend

Grants totalling £80.9m from the European Regional Development Fund towards the cost of industrial and auxiliary service projects in the United Kingdom were announced by the European Commission.

The grants are the first of the fund's 1981 allocations and bring to £474m the total contributed to United Kingdom projects since the fund's inception in 1975.

Almost £50m of the new allocation covers industrial projects in Scotland, and Northern Ireland and the rest is for a total of 225 service projects in United Kingdom assisted areas.

The service grants are passed on in full to the local and other public authorities concerned, while the industrial grants represent a contribution of up to half the cost of assistance given to individual projects by the British Government.

Five regions of England are included in the latest grants list: the North, North-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, East Midlands and South-west.

It includes the Heworth to South Shields section of the Tyne and Wear Metro, road improvements in Merseyside, a waste treatment plant for the greater Hull area, improvements to sewage treatment works at Corby and a new water treatment works in Cornwall.

Of the total of £81m contributed to English projects, almost £20m is for 86 developments in the North and North-west.

Since 1975, more than a quarter of fund assistance to the United Kingdom has gone to Scotland. English projects have accounted for more than 45 per cent of the total contributions.

Agreement on Lloyd's Bill 'near'

By Richard Allen

Mr Peter Green, chairman of Lloyd's, claimed yesterday that agreement was very near in discussions with MPs over controversial aspects of the draft Bill designed to improve the insurance market's self-regulation.

"As a result he hoped that the Bill would receive its second reading, even though the relevant detailed drafting of proposed changes remained to be completed."

Mr Green, who left London yesterday for a three-week tour of the United States, added that Lloyd's would shortly have talks with members of the House of Lords who may have reservations broadly similar to

Post Office could face £5m bill for VAT

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Consultations are taking place between Department of Industry and Customs and Excise officials to find a way through value-added tax regulations which could add an extra £5m a year to Post Office costs.

The problem arises because the postal service is not technically liable for an additional £5m a year in VAT payments on transactions between the two businesses after they were split.

Liability for the VAT payments could arise on shared facilities such as the procurement and storage of goods which the telecommunications business carries out for the postal service; on data processing facilities; and on motor transport vehicles some of which are owned by the telecommunications division but used by the postal service.

The Post Office said that services used by the public such as telex and Intelpost would not be affected.

There is no VAT charged on

Germany may allow foreign communications challenge

By Bill Johnstone

The German Cabinet may give a lead to Britain if it accepts a recommendation to open the German telecommunications equipment supply market to foreign competition, while not allowing its own post office (Bundespost) to compete.

The recommendations come from the German monopolies commission in response to a study by three university professors.

Professor Jürgen Müller, of L'Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, conducted the six-month study with Professor Karl Christian von Weizsäcker and Dr Gunter Knieps from the University of Bonn.

The study coincides with a British report on value-added services being looked at by the Department of Industry. The report was prepared by Professor Michael Beesley of the London Business School.

The authors of the German study strongly recommended that the telecommunications market should be opened up to competition. The market is heavily protected at present.

The German study looked at the network and terminal supply areas of the telecommunications market and recommended a more liberal approach to purchasing.

Fewer visitors coming into Britain

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

Overseas visitors to Britain dropped by 6 per cent in November compared with the same period last year, while visits abroad by United Kingdom residents rose 15 per cent, according to the Department of Trade.

The 1980 11-month total of foreign visitors to Britain was 0.6 per cent lower than the previous year while outgoing visits rose 13 per cent.

But the surplus on the travel account is still £177m in Britain's favour, although it was £585m in the previous year.

Even in November there was a surplus on the account as overseas visitors to Britain spent £200m compared with United Kingdom visitors spending abroad of £165m.

The feature of the foreign visitor traffic in November was that the declines were not from North America whose

tourist traffic into Britain showed a 13 per cent rise.

In previous months declines in North American traffic had been offset by increases from other areas, including Western Europe.

Cheap transatlantic air fares on routes between London and the United States main centres have undoubtedly affected the flow from north America, although some visitors may well have been using the United Kingdom as a gateway.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Figures behind a loss

From Mr R. E. Freeman

Sir, Mr J. E. O. Arnold (February 10) cites the case of an engineering company which made a profit of £2.94m in 1976 and a loss of £0.4m in 1980 and blames the "blind ignorance and greed of trade union leaders" for this result.

Unfortunately for his case the figures he produces do not support his assertions.

In 1976 a turnover of £54m was produced by a work force of 4,234 with a wage bill of £15.6m. In 1980 a turnover of £74m was produced by a work force of 2,941 with a wage bill of £20.2m.

A few minutes with slide-rule or calculator shows that turnover per man was £12,600 in 1976 and £25,200 per man in 1980. In other words a 100 per cent increase in productivity.

Wages per man rose from £3,690 to £6,900 p.a.—an increase of 89 per cent. There was therefore a net gain to the company. If an increase in 89

per cent seems a bit steep, it could be explained partly by overtime working for increased productivity.

Alternatively, the figures show that in 1976 wages amounted to 28.9 per cent of turnover and in 1980 to 27.4 per cent of turnover which again shows an improvement.

I am afraid that Mr Arnold must look elsewhere for the loss in profits. As about 70 per cent of the costs are not disclosed there is plenty of scope, but in this case it is clear that the loss is not due to the incapacity of the trade unions.

Adjusting the figures to standard pounds to eliminate the effects of inflation will make no difference to the conclusions as "turnover" and "wages" will be subject to the same factor.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. FREEMAN,
20 St Hilda's Road,
Harrogate,
N. Yorks.

Linwood plant closure

From Mr James Dallas

Sir, It is reported in today's edition of *The Times* (February 12) that Sir Keith Joseph, faced with the prospect of a further 4,500 jobs from the closure of Talbot UK's Linwood plant, offered to provide up to £40m of state aid to the ailing company for the production of a new model.

Surely the Government has discharged its duty to the motor industry through its recent support of BL and can legitimately turn its attentions elsewhere.

Clearly, one of the principal objects behind the offer was the preservation of existing jobs and the possible creation of additional ones. Could not this aim be as readily met by the encouragement of new and burgeoning industries which, with the size of the sums available, would I'm sure provide as many, if not more, jobs for those in a similarly unfortunate position to those at Linwood?

This latter course has the additional appeal, clearly lacking from Sir Keith's proposition, of providing some small hope of a lasting financial return on his investment.

Perhaps I have misjudged Sir Keith and the situation. Perhaps he really did believe that the interests of the unemployed in Scotland and financial interests of Britain as a whole would have been best served by the launching of a new Talbot model on an already saturated car market and that in time we should have seen the new "Talbot Joseph" as the answer to an Iron Maiden's prayer.

JAMES DALLAS,
6 Bucharest Road,
London, SW18.
February 12.

Judging the man by his address

From Mr D. W. Holman

Sir, The prospectus for British Aerospace (February 9) shows the address of all the directors as the address of the company itself. Now they may, indeed, all live together "over the shop" but this seems unlikely.

Should not every prospectus give the real addresses of the directors so that the reader can form his own view on seeing whether they live in Shillingford or Penistone, in Bagshot or Great Missenden, in Godstone or Sanderby, in Hale or Duddington, in St Just or Old Sodbury?

D. W. HOLMAN,
4 Hereford Road,
Harrogate,
North Yorks HG1 2NP.
February 9.

Nuclear reactor choice

From Mr S. D. Thomas

Sir, Mr D. J. Miller's response (February 10) to Lord Bowden's criticisms of current reactor choices tends to deceive by its omissions. He leaves unanswered the point that the South of Scotland Electricity Board has at least 35 per cent more capacity than it actually needs and yet it is still entering into a new commitment without thoroughly reviewing all the available technologies and options. I would like to give a more balanced view of the situation.

He emphasises that the advanced gas cooled reactor (AGR) will be based on the Hinkley B and Hunterston B designs but does not say that the design changes have been such that the orders were only placed in December, 1978, whereas Mr Benn's authorization was given in January, 1978, and subsequently confirmed by Mr. Howell in December, 1978.

2. He is correct in pointing out the good performance of the first five years of operation of the AGRs only operate at a maximum of 550 MW instead of their design rating of 660 MW, a major loss of potential output.

S. D. THOMAS
Science Policy Research Unit,
University of Sussex,
Falmer,
Brighton.

ANNUAL LEAGUE POSITION

	Hunt's B1	Hinkley B1	Hinkley B2	No. of reactors in table
1977	118	118	118	128
1978	120	124	124	143
1979	126	88	138	161
1980	143	118	118	163

Keeping abreast of airline rates

From Mr H. L. Morgan

Sir, I sympathize with Mr Ivor Hall (February 13) who was asked to pay a surcharge on transferring from British Airways to Qantas. The fact is that there are now bewildering anomalies between the standards of first-class accommodation (and the charges) of various airlines. A higher fare is asked for a reclining seat with more leg space. BA remain, so far, on the lower first-class fare level on certain routes where their aircraft are still in the process of conversion to reclining seats and they cannot guarantee what the customer will get. Mr Hall was

probably lucky to get a converted aircraft for the outward journey. On the longer Eastern flights I am prepared to pay something extra for the guarantee.

Odder still is the behaviour of Cathay Pacific who have converted some 747s to fully reclining sleepers in the upstairs lounge but deny that they exist if one tries to make a booking. Even the best travel agents can hardly keep abreast of the situation.

H. L. MORGAN,
The Steamship Mutual Underwriting Association,
201/211 Bishopsgate,
London EC2M 3TY.

Insurance pay

From Mr David Baxter

Sir, Staff salary claims in the insurance industry which were reported (February 10) as being of the order of 11 to 14 per cent (far above the Government guide lines) suggest to me that if the companies concerned are so well off, they could well consider making some extra grants to all their policy holders in receipt of annuities which are paid out of depreciated currency.

D. DAVID BAXTER,
Crescys,
20 Park Road,
Beckenham,
Kent.
February 11.

TRUSTHOUSE FORTE LIMITED

Results
Year to 31st October 1980

	1980 £m	1979 £m	% Increase
Trading Receipts	772.4	721.0	7
Trading Profit	82.0	81.6	—
Profit before Taxation	66.0	68.2	(3)
Profit after Tax and minority interest	47.7	40.3	18
Earnings per share	23.3p	20.0p	16.5
Dividend per share	9p	8p	12.5
Dividend cover	2.6 times	2.5 times	

A difficult and challenging year but one of considerable achievement.

Profit after tax increased by 18%.

Dividend increased by 12.5%.

Earnings per share increased by 16.5%.

THF provides employment for 68,000 people.

£95 million invested in additional bedrooms, new units, capital improvements and other additions to fixed assets.

The strength of the balance sheet, the quality of our assets and the expertise of our management and staff team encourage us to look forward to the future with optimism.

Yours faithfully
TRUSTHOUSE FORTE

Copies of the Annual Report can be obtained from The Secretary, 7, Hanover Square, London W1R 0PS

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Another wild goose chase

The trail after Dunlop's mystery shareholders has now gone cold. After six months' investigation, the Department of Trade inspectors trying to track down the beneficiaries of the shares have been defeated by a wall of silence in the Far East.

And while they seem to have amassed a mass of circumstantial evidence that some of the Far Eastern holders have been acting either as a "pool", certainly in the case of Mr Ghafar Baba's Goodfield group, or even before they disclosed their 5 per cent stake, the sheer impossibility of pinning which shareholders have been involved in laying bare their souls has frustrated the inspectors from making an order under Section 174 of the 1948 Companies Act placing restrictions on blocks of shares.

Each of the blame for this state of affairs laid at the door of the system of secondary market trading in the Far East which puts nominee companies to say with hand hearts that they do not know who the official owners are. The inspectors are sceptical about any procedure whereby interested owners of shares would be obliged to disclose on whose instructions shares were first bought.

It is of course possible that the DoT has ed down some of their inspectors' recommendations and there was some suspicion yesterday that the Department may have dits powers to delete "minor passages" were critical of stockbroker Laurence's role in operating the most important nominee companies.

Once again, however, the Dunlop report blights the no-man's land that exists between statutory and self-regulation in the v which the recent Companies Bill so pably ignored by failing to tighten up legislation over concert parties.

Dunlop has gone as far as it can under tion 27 of the 1967 Companies Act to cover who the beneficial shareholders are the ball is now back in the City's court, sure must be put on the legislators to re this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Met even though the exceptional earnings increase "should not be expected to continue" while the rump of the business, excluding Liggett, has managed a 12 1/2 per cent sales gain in the first quarter to £686m.

That suggests, given the limited opportunity for price increases these days, that Grand Met is still gaining volume in some areas, such as brewing, at the expense of its competitors' market shares.

Trusthouse Forte, meanwhile, after a tough though creditable year in 1979/80 when it managed only a slight shortfall on the previous year's record return, expects another difficult period, though the balance sheet, as the accounts out yesterday demonstrate, remains strong.

THE, too, has high hopes in the United States, though its strategy of gradual expansion there as opposed to Grand Met's dramatic leap, looks less impressive at this stage with United States sales now running at \$175m annually, against net sales in the quarter just reported by Liggett of \$292m.

Property: Fresh life

The way the property sector has outperformed the rest of the market, not just in the past year but for the best part of the last four years, has led some analysts to the view that "this relative strength cannot be sustained indefinitely" especially now when property yields are so low and the recession has slowed down rental growth.

What has given fresh life to property shares this year has been the hopes of a cut in interest rates, and given the widespread expectation that a fall in MLR cannot be postponed much longer, the sector seems to be in for a good run in front of the budget. In reality, however, except for the highly geared groups like Town and City the link between share values and interest rates is only psychological.

Overall the property sector is nowhere near so highly geared as to be a prime beneficiary from falling interest rates, particularly when a number of property groups led by Land Securities have been busy repaying their equity bases over the last year through rights issues and much of their borrowing is at fixed rather than floating rates.

In front of the Budget, another factor that has started to affect sentiment is the possibility of some change in capital gains tax. Any easing on this front could encourage institutions to bid for property companies since the present punitive disincentive to incorporating properties in their portfolios, where on some estimates the realized capital gains could cut 30 per cent from the gross value, would recede. The Prudential's sale of part of its MEPC holding illustrated that it was shifting its preference from companies to direct property investments.

While there may be some short-term mileage in the property sector from the Budget, the fundamentals are not quite so encouraging. True, some of the leading estate agents have started the year with some bullish remarks about rents but across the whole market, and especially industrial rents, the outlook is clouded by the recession.

● A £5.54m loss by Inveresk is within the limit for the British papermaker set by Georgia-Pacific, the bidder. Since £3.31m of the loss was extraordinary items, mainly closure costs, the underlying trading position is not so bad. But the question now is what Georgia-Pacific will find—assuming its bid goes through.

Circumstances have conspired against Inveresk. Strong sterling; high inflation; costly energy and cut-throat foreign competition are not problems of the company's making.

Conditions show little sign of improving, yet they are compounded by the fact that several of Inveresk's mills are too small, and that the company has been forced in recent years to shift from simple papermaking to conversion to cartons, packaging and so on. Carrongrove's losses are falling, but there is a long way to go before it makes a respectable return.

The loan restructuring and the debt and dividend provisions—presumably different if Georgia-Pacific takes over—should help, and the company is evidently squeezing costs and capital expenditure hard.

Nevertheless, Georgia-Pacific could well find that further measures are necessary, mill closures or disposals, for example, before this major part of the British paper industry is back on its feet. With no hope of dividends or significant profit improvement, the offer of 35p a share looks reasonable.

When the fishermen stayed home . . .

The fishing vessel Ocean Herald should have been working the North Sea grounds this week along with other boats from Pittenweem in Fife. Instead she lies tied up in harbour, rising and falling redundantly on the tides sweeping the Forth estuary.

Ocean Herald would have put to sea at midnight on Sunday but for a telephone call from fishermen in the North-east of Scotland who are outraged by the lack of progress towards solving the crisis caused by a flood of cheap imported fish, much of it they claimed, caught illegally and dumped on the British market.

Skipper John McBain had already felt the effects of the slump in the market. Ocean Herald returned to Pittenweem in the early hours of February 6 with a catch that should have set him covered the cost of running the boat and paying the wages.

"I could not believe the prices that were being offered. They were ridiculous," he said. Twenty-seven boxes of small haddock failed to make the £500 minimum and were condemned for pet food. He received £4 a box European Economic Community compensation for them. The main catch of prime fish made £580. "We ended up after five days' hard work worse off than when we set out. In fact the week has cost us £420," Mr McBain reflects.

Ocean Herald is a typical East Coast boat, 60 feet long with a thirty, 300 horsepower engine. During an average week's work it will burn 850 gallons of fuel without benefit of the sort of subsidy which most continental boats receive. Much of this is paid by the fishermen who is self-reliant so that the cost of fishing has gone up well ahead of inflation.

Mr McBain's boat works by towing 450 feet of tackle most of it made from artificial fibre: on top of that is the fuel bill and the cost of hydraulic oil for the machinery. It also carries a crew of six and a fisherman means £1,100 is swept away. The vessel is equipped with sophisticated electronic gear to track down the shoals and operates the often severe weather conditions of the North



Mr John McBain with the Ocean Herald (left) at Pittenweem yesterday.

The fishermen of the Fifeshire coast were about to set sail at the weekend when strike organizers in the North-east of Scotland, where ports are being blockaded to protest at cheap fish imports, called for their support. Ronald Faux visited a small Fife harbour and found a strange blend of anger and optimism.

Sea. She has two echo-sounders, radar, three radios, an autopilot and sonar. Some skippers rent their electronic equipment but Mr McBain has decided it is better to buy and pay a maintenance contract. Replacing his equipment would now cost £23,000.

Ocean Herald is five years old. Her steel hull was laid near Liverpool but she was fitted out in the neighbouring fishing port of St Mawgan. She cost £175,000, an average price for a

boat of her size, and is owned by Mr McBain and his father, who is now retired. The vessel proudly carries the arms of the clan McBain on her bow.

Mr McBain is aged 33, a big, gentle-spoken man who is usually optimistic about the long-term future of the industry in spite of the present gloom. He says wryly: "I cannot imagine that Mr Thatcher will allow an industry to go to the wall that is exactly what she believes an industry should be.

We work hard and if we do not work hard we do not get paid. That is surely true. I am a philosopher."

Last year Ocean Herald caught £118,000 of fish and was runner-up in the port competition for the highest earnings. Accountancy on a fishing vessel follows an involved, traditional pattern. Earnings must be at least £1,000 a week if the men on board are to earn anything. Expenses are deducted from gross earnings for fuel, stores,

landing dues, commission for the fish salesman, box charges, national insurance, maintenance of the electronic equipment and a pension scheme.

The remainder is divided into 12 shares; six for the crew and six for the boat which pays for gear, insurance (£5,500 a year for the Ocean Herald), repairs and for the boat itself. The vessel was bought with a 30 per cent grant from the Whitefish Authority, a 25 per cent grant from the EEC, a loan from the WFA repayable over five years and the rest from the McBains themselves, partly raised by the sale of their previous boat.

"We have had some expensive extras because the hydraulic system powering the winches proved faulty and the firm that it went bankrupt, but that apart we have been a very fortunate boat," Mr McBain says. Rarely has Ocean Herald returned from a week at sea and made a net loss.

Another reason I am optimistic is because new legislation is now going through the EEC to police the industry on shore and cut down the amount of fish floating about the European market. This will help keep the price at a level that makes it worthwhile going to sea."

Mr McBain and his colleagues have been supporting the angry men of the North-east. They feel they have to maintain a united front. But there is an apparent reluctance about their action. Their own recent experience tells them that the North-east fleets have a strong case but they seem more willing than the men at Aberdeen and Peterhead to accept the government's good faith.

One of them explains why: "There are signs the Government is prepared to be tough even on matters about exclusive zones or restricting our grounds to boats under 80 feet. I think their assurances should be accepted. The total allowable catch is going up, there is more haddock about there is more and we have got rid of 150 Russian boats and 50 Poles from the North Sea. The Danes have been restricted and action against the big French boats now seems likely. I really feel there could be a future if the price we get for our fish is right."

Peter Hill

Steel industry: can Sir Keith find his way through the maze?

The Bill itself is small enough. It is the sums involved and the political ramifications which make it a major event. The reading of the bill is a landmark in the history of the British Steel Corporation, the first time since 1967 that the Secretary of State for Industry has introduced a Bill into the House of Commons.

What the Bill introduced last week by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Industry Minister, seeks to do is to raise the borrowing ceiling of the British Steel Corporation from the present £5,500m to £6,000m. Once enacted the ceiling can be increased still further by an order laid by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry, to £7,000m.

Doing out sums of this magnitude is dreadfully embarrassing for a government committed to rolling back the frontiers of state aid and state intervention.

The Bill was introduced last week as an emergency measure because the effectively bankrupt BSC is pressing close to the existing limit and needs additional cash to pay its bills between now and the end of the year.

Hence Mr Tebbit's earnest plea to the House last week: "In view of the urgency of the corporation's need of increased borrowing and the essentially (any imiles) nature of the Bill which I am introducing, I hope that the House will facilitate its swift passage."

What the House had been expecting had been the long awaited (the usually are) statement from Sir Keith on the cor-

porate plan submitted to the Government last December by Mr Ian MacGregor, British Steel's chairman who was drafted in under a controversial £1.8m deal last year and has to get the corporation off the Government's back by the end of the 1982-83 financial year.

That statement was delayed because it is said the Prime Minister had become alarmed at the scale of the finance

An emergency measure

required to support the MacGregor revival plan (although the Cabinet had approved the main principles the previous week).

Her decision to postpone the all embracing statement on the corporate plan, the money that BSC will require for the next two years and the proposed capital reconstruction, must have been prompted at least in part by the rumblings on the Government back benches.

There is a delicate political problem here. The effect of pouring further large payments of government money into the corporation might be to undercut the private sector, companies which in a number of areas compete directly with BSC produced steel.

The independent companies have found themselves in a big mess as the corporation (despite their consistent record

of high levels of investment and profitability). But the private companies—almost without exception staunch supporters of the Conservative Party—did not have access to a seemingly bottomless purse like British Steel. Hence their growing anxiety as British Steel, motivated by the highly aggressive Mr MacGregor, began to capture business in order to build up plant loading levels and has done so by offering customers very attractive discounts.

Sir Keith and his officials have been trying to secure the rationalization of the industry through joint ventures between the public and private sectors, code named the Phoenix project. Some private companies have been very acute and argued that rationalization of areas of overcapacity (full marks

from the EEC), the private sector will be in the ascendant (good marks from the back benches) and ultimately the drain on the Treasury will be reduced (full marks from the Chancellor).

The carefully drawn plans for "Phoenix Two" have been more difficult. This involves rationalizing the engineering steels overlap and overcapacity between British Steel, GKN, Hadfield, the steelmaking company owned by Lomax, Round Oak (a jointly owned company between the BSC and Tube Investments) and Dapur.

The problems of the latter have been very acute and arguments have raged to and fro between the BSC and the independent company. Under the terms of the proposed Phoenix Two deal, the future of the Dapur works at Llanelli is in question.

But it now looks as though all sides involved in Phoenix

Two may be edging towards agreement and the next step will be for ministers to assure worried back benches that the scheme will work and that the interests of the private sector are being properly looked after. Calming these fears may be an uphill job.

It is these anxieties that the Prime Minister wants to allay. The right-wing Monday Club has written Sir Keith in forceful tones and members of the Conservative Industry Committee, chaired by Mr Michael Grylls, have been equally busy behind the scenes making their worries known to ministers.

The Phoenix plan

As if to reinforce the points being made by back bench MPs and the British Independent Steel Producers Association, one of the organization's members, the Sheffield-based Firth Brown group announced to its workers yesterday afternoon that it was to axe about one third of its steelmaking labour force.

That announcement reflects the depth of the crisis in the steel industry, with production last year down to its lowest levels since 1938, and the market shrunk to 50 per cent of its normal size.

The significance of yesterday's Firth Brown announcement, which stunned the workforce, will not be lost on Mrs Thatcher. Two years ago the company contributed £15,000 to the Tory Party; last year it donated £7,500. On the day before Mr Tebbit introduced his borrowings Bill, Mr John Clay, chairman of Johnson and Firth Brown, announced that the contribution was being stopped as an item of "unnecessary expenditure".

Business Diary: Joel's sole role • Who will take the pledge?

umped into Joel Barnett in City yesterday and even I could open my mouth and tell you that he is the Treasury's telling me there was no chance of his being the Gang of Three Or

I believe I owe a great deal to the party," he told me "and I believe it is the only way of defeating this Govern-

ment. Barnett, no fan of the ent trade union leadership: "I can you clobber the union movement into submission: the only way is by persuasion—and that is not able to the Social Democrats as it will eventually be to Labour Party. Barnett, the MP for Heywood, Royton is willing away his in Opposition as chair of the quoted Manchester lies firm Arthur Henriquez is a member of a committee of public fundings of ical parties chaired by und Dell. ell came into the House in same year as Barnett (1964), ing been active with his Manchester Fabian club, also sat for a North-west stitency (Birkenhead), oth served at the Treasury. Dell quit the House in 1979 become chairman and chief cutive of City finance and ling house Guinness Peat. has since emerged as a porter and possible fund-er for "The Gang".

Wallchart
WE'VE HAD BACKGROUND MUSIC INSTALLED IN THE OFFICES

IF I EVER APPEAR ON DESERT ISLAND DISCS...

I'LL TAKE EIGHT BLANK CASSETTES WITH ME...

● David Widdicombe, QC, one of Britain's leading planning lawyers, was leader for Windscale. Appeal, one of the groups which fought unsuccessfully against a new nuclear waste reprocessing factory at Windscale, has popped up in another interesting role.

He is chairman of an organization calling itself the Nuclear Protection Advisory Group (Nupag) which has organized a seminar in London on March 18 called "Nuclear attack: protection for industry."

The purpose is to help businessmen plan to survive a nuclear attack; which I suppose may be reckoned as the industrialists' ultimate problem.

Nevertheless David Widdicombe clearly believes it is solvable because in correspondence with Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation

of British Industry, Widdicombe says: "Millions of survivors would be depending on essential industries operating effectively again as soon as possible. That is why it is urgent that businessmen understand, and are able to implement, survival techniques."

A formidable team of specialists has been lined up to answer questions about what needs to be done to mitigate the effects of nuclear weapons. They include Richard Burton (the architect not the actor) and one of the organizers of the meeting, who says businessmen people are worried about the lack of civil preparedness.

Other experts include Dr Alexander King, the former Foreign Office science attaché and presently chairman of the International Federation for Advanced Study.

● The time has yet to come for the pawnbroking business to be the power it was, even though everybody is short of cash and it can be quicker and not much more expensive to raise cash at the pop shop rather than at the bank.

This is what I was told yesterday by Cesare Sacerdoti, a joint vice-chairman of Time Products. This is the quoted firm best known as a distributor of timepieces and jewelry, but is also the owner of Robertson's, the pawn shop that has operated in London's Edgware Road since 1977.

"It is a social thing: people still don't like going into a pawnshop," Sacerdoti said. And that is all he would say, since pawnbrokers are as discreet as bankers.

My guess is that Robertson's flourishes because it is near Paddington Station and the many small hoteliers around there, as well as the Mayfair gamblers and showbiz types, who will put cash into and raise fresh cash on jewelry.

It may also be a "social" thing, as well as a "social" thing. There is, after all, T. M. Sutton in Victoria Street, handy for Pimlico, Westminster and Belgrave. And is not Sutton's owned by Sears Holdings, owners of the Crown Jewellers, Gernard & Co.

● When last month Sally Oppenheim, the Consumer Affairs Minister, took on tourism, the industry rejoiced at having a Minister of State rather than an Under-Secretary battling for it.

I said the rejoicing might soon die down if Mrs Oppenheim did not improve on her performance in the consumer field.

Was I too cynical too soon? I hear the English Tourist Board (ETB) should be getting a better deal on government handouts this next financial year, the Treasury notwithstanding. Allocations of cash for tourism grants and interest relief schemes, for pump-priming exercises, will be rising virtually in line with inflation this time round.

The ETB got £4.3m last year so they should be good this April for about another half million pounds.

But the tourism lobby should not get too euphoric. There seems little chance of getting anywhere with their lobbying for a lower rate of VAT for hotels.

Out of place: I remember being told once by a Yorkshireman that near his home was a shop owned by a Pakistani, a small place squashed between two other and larger premises. I can recall no more than that its name was M Dtin.

Ross Davies

HARDYS & HANSONS LIMITED

Highlights from Chairman's Statement

- Our beer sales have held up better than the average for the rest of the country.
- We have lived well within our own resources and have benefited from the high interest rates.
- Brewery expansion scheme is now largely operational and is expected to cost in the region of £2.1m.
- During the year four new Public Houses were opened, and one re-opened after extensive alterations.
- Trade in the first quarter has not been particularly buoyant and I cannot see any dramatic improvement whilst the economy is in its present state of recession.

Results at a glance for the 53 weeks ended 3rd October 1980

	1980 (53 weeks)	1979 (52 weeks)
Turnover	13,075	11,206
Profit before Tax	2,845	2,259
Available for appropriation	1,385	1,331
Earnings per share	24.57p	20.75p
Total Dividend	11.1p	8.4p

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Equities rally as bargain hunters move in

Equities staged a mild technical rally yesterday in spite of further support for action by the miners and the rejection of a 10 per cent pay offer by the water workers.

Traders reported a further shakeout of stock as talk of a "spring of discontent" gathered pace with the miners, water workers and firemen all threatening industrial action. However, the selling soon dried up and a rally got under way with the continuing stage of stock reacting favourably to the appearance of several bargain hunters. The FT Index, after being 2.0 down at 10 am and 4.9 lower at 11 am, closed 1.0 higher at 485.5.

Dealers appeared to be taking the view last night that the miners' confrontation might yet be averted. If not, existing coal stocks throughout the country were likely to see the winter out, thereby putting the pressure on the miners in the spring to resolve the issue. In the meantime, investors continued to focus their attention on the more speculative second liners as the long three-week account entered the mid-way stage.

Glits, on the other hand, spent another quiet session still weighed down by the two recent new taps. Reaction to Monday's record trade figure remained divided and hopes of a cut in the Minimum Lending Rate now appear to have been put back to the Budget. As a result, jobbers saw little improvement in turnover and, with conditions still thin, prices fluctuated within narrow limits. In longs, gains of around 1% were recorded on the whole, but shorter, earlier losses of 1/16 were erased to leave prices unchanged on the day.

Leading industrials bore a mixed appearance, unable to recoup Monday's heavy falls but there were one or two bright spots. Lucas Industries jumped 7p to 166p on the announcement of a joint venture into solar energy with BP, down 6p at 392p. BOC International also

made headway, rising 2p to 118p ahead of today's figures. But Distillers fell 4p to 187p in the wake of a gloomy report from the Scotch Whisky Association which talked of distillers running at half capacity and warning of further redundancy. Elsewhere, Bechem slipped 1p to 177p after reports of over 1m shares on offer earlier in the week, while GKN fell 1p to 147p. Metal Box 6p to 180p and Tube Investments 4p to 182p.

ICI held steady at 292p. Fisons rose 3p to 130p, Dunlop 1p to 65p, following the Department of Trade report into share stakes, and John Brown 3p to 73p.

Foods saw sellers of J. Sainsbury, down 13p at 351p after a sell recommendation by brokers Capel-Cure Myers. Tate & Lyle with another weak feature, sliding 2p to 166p after the abortive talks on the closure of its Liverpool refinery but British Sugar rose 5p to 268p after announcing the closure of four of its plants with the loss of 750 jobs. Associated Fisheries held steady at 53p ahead of figures tomorrow but Dalgety, reporting today, fell 2p at 273p. Redditt & Coleman, with a big export business, celebrated the renewed weakness of sterling with a 5p rise to 192p. Frue house Forte generated 2p to 190p after publication of the annual report. Pergamon's agreed bid for BPC saw the latter slip 1p to 16p.

In engineering shares of F. Pratt leapt 13p to 115p as Bardsley, down 2p at 23p, and headed by Mr John Bentley, emerged as the mystery buyer of 12 per cent of the equity. Aurora was unchanged at 27p despite the assurance of Government aid.

Rumours of a bid from the Far East saw Concorde rise 2p to 38p with speculative attention lifting RCF 3p to 22p, Sumic 4p to 41p, Fitzwilliam 4p to 49p and Blumel Bros 3p to 20p.

New Court Natural Resources shares slipped 3p to 83p yesterday after RIT sold most of its 10 per cent stake worth about £3.6m. RIT had held the shares, which went to various institutions, for more than four years. New Court recently acquired exploration acreage in Eastern Nevada and is already in Kansas.

27p. Acquisition news boosted Wolstenholme Rink 5p to 88p with Homfray adding 1p to 12p on the chairman's statement, but M. P. Kent saw profit taking and fell 4p to 114p.

Reliance Knitwear ended all square at 18 after its interim profits setback and Ernest Jones (Jewellers) shed 5p to 109p after interim figures. Grand Metropolitan held firm at 150p after first-quarter figures. The market seemed impressed with trading news from UUI Textiles, up 2p at 15p. Similarly Ulico

rose 15p to 120p and Inveresk 1p to 32p. Securicor, reporting today, advanced 2p to 188p.

In financials Macon Finance improved 3p to 78p in the wake of its interim statement as Smith Bros, reporting tomorrow, expanded 2p to 40p. Banks showed further losses in generally thin conditions with the threat of a windfall tax in the Budget still looming. Barclays was 2p cheaper at 383p as National Westminster at 363p. Midland improved 3p to 326p and Lloyds, reporting this week, held firm at 325p.

A warning of further losses coming, only days after the dismal interim statement had Manchester Ship Canal 6p lighter at 145p and profit taking clipped 6p more from Reardon Smith 'A' at 146p.

Profit taking was the prime reason for a 4p fall in Rediffusion at 120p which sellers leaving United Scientific 15p down at 343p and Electromcomponents a similar figure at 663p. Hoover became nervous ahead of figures out tomorrow and dipped 4p to 120p. But among the major small recoveries were seen with Rascal 2p better at 340p and Plessey 1p firmer at 302p.

In stores House of Fraser remained unchanged at 144p after the official offer fell from 140p. GUS 'A' fell 5p to 480p. Boots 1p to 245p and Marks & Spencer 2p to 121p.

Insurance brokers made more gains from the recent weakness of the pound as Sedgwick Group firmed 1p to 122p. Willis Faber 2p to 288p and CE Heath 5p to 213p while Minet Holdings was unchanged at 94p. Unfortunately the composite insurance groups have been unable to draw on the same inspiration. Commercial Union slipped 2p to 147p with General Accident at 292p and Sun Alliance at 752p unchanged.

Oil experienced early selling, but recovered, later with the help of a few bargain hunters. Among the majors Shell closed 10p lower at 400p, Ultramar the same at 463p, Lasso 5p off at 639p and Barmah 2p down at 177p.

Ranger Oil was 5p stronger at 650p on acquisition news and Pict Petroleum closed 30p dearer at 400p. But among "Austries" Straits Oil plunged 40p to 170p on news that it had suspended drilling at Woodada Three, previously thought to contain large quantities of oil. Barmah Gold lost 22p to 110p in sympathy.

Consolidated Gold Fields encountered a return of confidence, pushing the price 5p higher to 435p. RTZ was 8p better at 466p. Among gold shares Anglo Am Gold rose 1 1/16 to 53p. West Driford fell 1/16 to 53p and Vaal Reef 1/16 to 53p.

Equity turnover on February 16 was £115.5m (£17.163 bn). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were GEC, Shell, Associated Dairies, Bechem, BP, Marks & Spencer, Plessey, Barmah, ICI, RTZ, Barclays Bank, Ultramar, Ladbroke, Hawker Siddeley and Lloyds.

Traded options: Business remained at a low level with most activity centred on oil shares. BP and Lasso captured 112 contracts each out of a total of 238.

Traditional options were also quiet although calls were produced in Charterhall on 3p and Barmah on 16p and a put was arranged in Wimpey at 74p.

Mr Bentley discloses 12pc stake in F Pratt



Mr John Bentley, chairman of Bardsley.

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Mr John Bentley's Bardsley emerged as the mystery buyer of 12 per cent of the equity of F. Pratt Engineering yesterday disclosing a 12.67 per cent stake and, informing Pratt, that "it is actively considering the possibility" of bidding for the rest of the shares.

However, confirmation of Bentley's involvement was shortly followed by the news that Pratt is selling Hamblin & Widdage, its dispensing optician with 38 retail outlets, for £4.5m—over five times more than the £850,000 purchase price last July when Pratt bought the company from family interests.

The buyer is Dollond & Aitchison Group, part of Gallaher and Britain's largest optician chain. It is paying well above net asset value which was stated at £995,000 last July. However, H & W made a three-month contribution of £132,000 before tax on sales of £993,000 to Pratt's last annual profits of £992,000 in the year to October 31.

The sale of H & W is still subject to shareholders' approval at an extraordinary general

board meeting tomorrow "think about it", he said, phrasing that, Bentley taken a broad view of Pratt.

Pratt's shares stood at 50p few weeks ago, and 70p week just before Bentley launched its market raid at 100p and Pratt announced a possible sale of H & W. It rose a further 13p to 115p today, valuing the group £5.2m.

The sale of H & W would provide a further large boost to Pratt's already substantial asset-backing. The group has a number of commercial properties and at October 1979, assets per share of 202p. Since then, it has made net profit of £324,000, while the profit the H & W sale could add 67p share to net assets.

In an unrelated deal, Bardsley's shares fell 2p to 23p yesterday, has bought a 5 per cent stake in American oil and exploration group, West Petroleum for Canadian \$1.4 (£533,000). Westport is the name of the Vancouver Stock exchange and traded under 163(1)(c) in London.

Consumer downturn hits Ernest Jones



Mr Ernest Weinstein, chairman of Ernest Jones (Jewellers).

By Philip Robinson

Shares of Ernest Jones (Jewellers) dropped 5p to 109p yesterday as the group, which came to market 30 months ago, reported a profit fall and an unchanged final dividend.

A year ago the group, which was 85 times oversubscribed on going public, was reporting profits up a third, a more than doubled total dividend and a one-for-one scrip issue.

Mr Ernest Weinstein, chairman, said that by last April the jewelry trade was feeling the pinch of lower consumer spending. By the second six months from March to September, profits dropped to less than half those in the same period in 1979, and the year's pretax profits came down from a record £1.6m to £1.45m on turnover, without VAT, up 11 per cent to £8.6m.

The total gross dividend is up 4 per cent from £3.5p to 3.7p with a final dividend unchanged at £2.5p. The interim dividend of £1.2p was followed by the Fixed Interest Fund, which also more than doubled from £43m to £101m.

The company's Composite Fund, investing in property, fixed interest and equities, jumped from £12m to £23m, while the International Fund attracted £1m during its first three months in existence.

Reliance Knitwear slumps

By Peter Wainwright

Today Reliance Knitwear Group of Halifax has 1,000 workers, only 60 fewer than year ago. It has kept its wages and labour force virtually intact despite retail recession and it paid the price in the months to October 31.

Turnover of this supplier of knitwear and sportswear, 35 per cent of it to Marks and Spencers, rose a tenth to £9.7m, close a larger increase in volume, pretax profits plunged to £228,000 to £30,000 compared with £573,321 in the full year to April 30, 1980 and £132,197 in 1979-80, the bottom of last recession. However, £573,321 included £150,964 temporary employment subsidies (now abolished) and profits based on fixed assets of £43,340. Shareholders' dividend, last August that their dividend had moved ahead two first recent years and last time total gross payout was cut 6.27p a share to 4.43p. Now pretax profits are £228,000, a halving of 1.4p a share but encouraging point is that company is willing to absorb £56,545 even though pretax after tax were only £26,000. Could also be encouraging if this higher dividend is being even though adjusted for inflation, Reliance has been losing money.

Mr Raymond Newman, chairman, reports that "the way may now be over and so improvement is expected in current calendar year."

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BECCI	14%
Consolidated Credits	14%
C. Hoare & Co.	14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 days deposit on sums of £10,000 and over. ** 12 months deposit on sums of £10,000 and over.

T & N talks on deal in Zimbabwe

By Rosemary Unsworth

Turner & Newall, the Manchester-based asbestos and motor components group, is negotiating with a quoted Zimbabwe company about a merger with T & N's local subsidiary.

The Zimbabwe Turner Holdings (Private) Company which managed to boost assets by £86m to £52m during the 14 years of UDI and then forecast £12m pretax profit for 1980, is in discussion with Masbionland Holdings, the largest brick manufacturer in Zimbabwe. A merger with Masbionland would result in a reverse takeover which would give Turner & Newall a substantial majority of an enlarged company without diluting its existing earnings or assets and with a Zimbabwe quote.

Turner Holdings manufactures building materials, brake linings, steel pipes and tubes as well as asphalt, but the merger would also introduce it to Masbionland's electrical motors business and transport operations.

"Turner & Newall is due to publish its 1980 results next month when it will reveal the contribution from Zimbabwe."

Minister was in error, BEP says

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, stated incorrectly in the House of Commons on Monday that Associated Newspapers owns 60 per cent of Bristol Evening Post, the BEP board said yesterday. Associated Newspapers is making a £7.6m bid for BEP, which is opposed by the BEP board of directors.

In fact Associated owns only 23.8 per cent of Bristol Evening Post, though it does have a 40 per cent share of the company's operating subsidiary, Bristol United Press. In April the Monopolies and Mergers Commission judged that Associated Newspapers is a proprietor of BEP's newspaper interests because of these stakes, which means that Associated's bid, worth 190p a share, could avoid the scrutiny of the Secretary of State for Trade.

Mrs Oppenheim's remarks were made in response to a question from Mr Arthur Palmer, Labour MP for Bristol North East. Pressed further by Mr John Fraser, opposition spokesman for trade and in defence of her statement that the disputed bid did not need to go before the Secretary of State, she erroneously said that Associated Newspapers had a 60 per cent holding that was "capitalised" and "under control". The Director General of Fair Trading is looking at the

situation to see if a reference to the Monopolies Commission arises under the general provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Investment income boosts Meat Trade

Turnover of Meat Trade Suppliers in the half-year to September 30, 1980, was £3.85m, against £3.59m in the similar period of 1979. Mr W. C. Ansell, the chairman, explains that sales for 1979 period would have been £3.7m if low profit trading, discontinued on September 30, 1979, had been deducted. Taking this adjustment into account, sales for the 1980 half-year show a small rise, while 1979's investment income increased "considerably". Pretax profits for the 1980 half reached £221,000, against £201,000. The interim dividend is unchanged.

L & G's pension funds reach £1.700m

Funds handled by Legal and General Assurance (Pensions Management), Britain's largest managed pension fund company, grew by £427m in last year, and now stand at the £1.700m mark. The largest of the company's six funds, the

Heavier interest hits J Webb

After almost doubled interest of £159,000—against £81,900 last time—pretax profits of Joseph Webb slipped from £25,000 to £21,000 in the half-year ended September 30. Group turnover was up from £2.18m to £2.48m. Pretax profits, for the current year, are expected to be "marginally below" the previous year. The interim dividend is being maintained at £2.5p, and the capitalised by a one-for-one scrip issue, compared with 0.17p (adjusted) last time.

PMA moves to reduce debts

By Roman Eisenstein

PMA Holdings, the furniture manufacturing group, is selling about £5m worth of assets to reduce debts. It will also announce later this month proposals to raise more money to further reduce borrowings.

Mr Malcolm Meredith, the chairman, said yesterday that the moves would insure the survival of the company "whatever the circumstances". PMA,

United Glass loses £5.6m

By Our Financial Staff

United Glass, the largest glass container maker in the United Kingdom, tumbled into the red in the second half of the year to November 29. Redundancy payments, higher interest charges and lower output in response to the drop in demand were to blame.

The group, which is jointly owned by Distillers, the whisky group, and the United States glass company Owens-Illinois, lost £5.7m before tax compared with a £0.9m profit the year before. The volume of

Impala cautious on final figures

By Michael Prest

Mining Correspondent

Impala Platinum, the So Africa's second biggest platinum producer, made a modest pretax profit of £1.1m compared with 1979. After a period of 1979, after profits of £1.1m, full year profits are up by 21 cents to cents.

But platinum prices have fallen sharply recently—climaxed at \$483 an ounce in London yesterday—and this, combined with higher production costs and lower prices for Impala metals such as cobalt, makes the company cautious about results for the year.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 9EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Div(p)	P/E	
75	39	Airsprung Group	64	+1	6.7	10.5	5.8
44	21	Armitage & Rhodes	42	-1	1.4	3.3	17.3
192	92	Bardon Hill	190	-	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	94	-1	5.5	5.9	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	106	-	6.4	6.0	3.3
110	51	Frederick Parker	51	-	11.0	21.6	2.3
110	74	George Blair	74	-	3.1	4.2	—
110	59	Jackson Group	106	-	6.9	6.5	4.0
124	103	James Burrough	120	-	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	Robert Jenkins	330	-	31.3	9.5	—
54	50	Scruttons "A"	54	+1	5.3	9.8	3.9
224	215	Torday Limited	217	+1	15.1	7.0	4.2
23	10	Twinkl Ord	113	-	—	—	—
90	69	Twinkl 15% ULS	72	-	15.0	20.8	—
56	35	Uniclock Holdings	39	-	3.0	7.7	6.0
103	81	Walter Alexander	103	-	5.7	5.5	5.7
263	181	W. S. Yeates	262	-	12.1	4.6	4.3

THE CHARTER TRUST & AGENCY LIMITED

Managers: KLEINWORT, BENSON LIMITED

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th November 1980

	1980	1979
GROSS REVENUE	£2,495,841	£2,450,598
NET REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR		
ORDINARY STOCK	£1,363,682	£1,351,735
EARNED FOR ORDINARY STOCK (Net)	3.38p	3.36p
DIVIDENDS ON ORDINARY STOCK (Net)	3.20p	3.15p
INVESTMENTS - Valued at 30th November		
Total value after deducting net current liabilities (1979 assets)	£42,565,555	£31,284,653
ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY STOCK	£40,548,593	£29,214,120
NET ASSET VALUE per unit of 25p	160.6p	116.8p

*Revenue, in 1979 included non-recurring dividends received on the holding in "Shell" Transport & Trading Ltd. amounting to £176,021 gross and £123,215 net. As a result of this special dividend of 0.30p per ordinary stock unit was paid in respect of 1979 and this is included in the net dividend of 3.15p shown above.

Annual General Meeting - 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB Thursday 12th March 1981 at 2.30 p.m.

Well flow problems hit Strata

By Catherine Gunn

Shares of Australian exploration company Strata Oil plunged 40p to 174p in London yesterday after news that testing at its Number Three well at Woodada in the Perth Basin has been temporarily suspended. The price is 18 cents down on the overnight close in Sydney, of A\$3.60 (£1.50), which was struck after a 70 cent fall there.

Strata's geologists are having to re-think after tests which found gas and "small amounts of waxy oil" but failed to stimulate a steady flow. So far, the reasons for the well's refusal to flow are not understood at Strata, though one possibility is that the 100 gallons of concrete sent down the well to set the casing and the 30,000 barrels of balancing mud used in drilling have caused a blockage.

Strata is waiting for new equipment to induce the well to flow. Meanwhile, drilling continues at the Cabavin Number Three well, and Woodada Four, has been suspended. Strata has a 26.8 per cent in the total Woodada venture.

CYCLICAL INDICATORS FOR THE UK ECONOMY

The following table is based on the CSD corporate indices of the business cycle in the United Kingdom published yesterday.

	Longer leading indicators	Shorter leading indicators	Coincident indicators	Lagging indicators
1980				
Feb	107.4	105.7	102.7	92.3
Mar	105.5	107.7	100.3	91.4
Apr	105.8	108.8	97.9	90.1
May	107.7	106.6	96.0	88.3
Jun	104.6	100.5	94.2	87.8
Jul	102.4	98.2	92.3	85.9
Aug	105.3	99.1	89.7	83.8
Sep	108.9	98.7	88.5	82.8
Oct	108.4	98.1	86.5	81.5
Nov	103.2	97.9	85.7	79.8
Dec	110.2	98.2	85.3	74.7
Jan	111.0	100.4	85.1	72.4

مكتبة من الأصل

Commodities

All prices quoted net unless otherwise noted.

"A" means steady; "B" means slightly higher; "C" means lower; "D" means no change.

Delivery: In Kansas trays, 60 lbs. per tray, \$1.00 per ton. Delivery outside Kansas at buyer's expense. Market conditions are steady and dependent upon local supply and demand. Quantity and whether delivered or not.

Late rally in "raw" sugar futures

Yesterday afternoon, "raw" sugar futures fell to their lowest levels since February 3, last year. May at \$252.50, but the market finally met a short-covering rally to close 50p to \$215.15.

Traders attributed the overall decline to long liquidation, chart and stoploss selling, partly inspired by a weaker response in New York after the long United States holiday weekend. Turnover was 11,325 lots.

Traders noted that the afternoon sell-off contrasted with early gains of up to £10.50 and a pared average advance at midday of 23.3p.

They attributed the early rise to news from Warsaw that Poland will be seeking further 200,000 tonnes of sugar third-quarter 1981 requirements.

Wall Street

New York, Feb. 17. Stocks of the New York Stock Exchange ended the day with a gain as the Dow Jones industrial average was up 8.11 to 938.68. But advances barely edged issues unchanged. Volume gained to 37,540,000 shares from the 36,400,000 shares of the previous NYSE composite rose 0.42 to 73.22, an all average price per share was up 1/16 to 27 1/2.

Among the lists Excon gained 1 1/2 to 73 1/2, Texaco 1 to 40, Standard Oil of California one to 83, and Alcoa 1/2 to 47 1/2. The price of energy operation, 3 to 47 1/2.

Excon awarded a contract to build a new refinery to be located on the Colony oil shale project in western Colorado. Tosco, which has a stake in the \$2,000,000,000 project, said it would be a "major contribution" to 73. Standard Oil (Indiana) gained 1/2 to 67 1/2.

Mobil 3 to 70 1/2.

Mostly higher prices. General Motors edged 1 to 43 1/2 while Ford Motor edged 3 to 20 1/2. GM will build a new plant in 1960 for 600,000 cars and 100,000 trucks. Ford will make 100 per cent re-forests on selected models. American Electric Power Co. will pay 10 per cent PCT price rollback on all AMC cars to March 15. AMC will cut 1 to 44.

Chrysler 1 to 54.

Off to Friday its \$4000 net issue

	Market rates (day's range)	Market rates (close)	
New York	\$2.2494-2700	\$2.2495-2700	1 month
Amsterdam	5.38-59.11	5.38-59.11	0.98-1.08c prem
London	5.38-59.11	5.38-59.11	0.98-1.08c prem
Copenhagen	18.21-46p	18.21-46p	11-13c prem
Dublin	1.3350-350p	1.3350-350p	11-13c prem
Frankfurt	129.50-130.20e	129.50-130.20e	11-13c prem
Lisbon	129.50-130.20e	129.50-130.20e	11-13c prem
Paris	234.6-41p	234.6-41p	11-13c prem
Milan	234.6-41p	234.6-41p	11-13c prem
Oslo	32.35-33p	32.35-33p	11-13c prem
Stockholm	10.56-68k	10.56-68k	11-13c prem
Vienna	36.05-70cch	36.05-70cch	11-13c prem
Zurich	4.50-59f	4.50-59f	11-13c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 1.0 at 102.5.

Money Market

	Bank of England	Morgan Gautney Index	Guaranty Index
Sterling	102.5	-24.2	
US dollar	399.5	-24.2	
Canadian dollar	94.7	-18.9	
Schilling	33.8	-21.2	
Belgian franc	32.1	-21.2	
Danish kroner	89.1	-10.3	
Deutscher mark	32.0	-21.2	
Swiss franc	33.0	-27.3	
Guilford	111.8	-21.0	
French franc	86.0	-21.2	
Lira	61.5	-33.6	
Yen	246.7	+33.9	

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December 1972.
(Bank of England Index 100).

Rates

* Ireland	1,680.0-1.0
* Canada	3,073.1-1.0
* Netherlands	2,882.2-1.0
Belgium	38.32-2.2
Denmark	6,748.0-4.0
West Germany	2,307.5-1.0
Spain	57.10-1.0
Portugal	88.00-1.0
Italy	1,043.0-1.0
France	4,460.0-5.0
Switzerland	1,995.0-1.0
Sweden	4,650.0-4.0
Japan	208.70-20.0
Australia	1,550.0-1.0
Switzerland	1,995.0-1.0

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
* Canada \$1 = US \$0.8283-0.0

Rates

Bank of England MLR 14 $\frac{1}{2}$
(Last changed 24/11/80)
Clearing Bank Base Rate 14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Discount Mkt Loans 6
Overnight: High 14 Low 13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Week Fixed: 14-13 $\frac{1}{2}$

Treasury Bills (Dis $\frac{1}{2}$)

Paying	selling
2 months 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 months 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 months 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 months 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

Prime Bank Bills (Dis $\frac{1}{2}$) **Trades (Dis $\frac{1}{2}$)**

2 months 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 months 13 $\frac{1}{2}$
---	---------------------------

3 months	12^{12}_2	4 months	12^{12}_2
4 months	12^{12}_2	6 months	12^{12}_2
6 months	11^{11}_2		

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate	% change adjusted*	divergence limit plus/m.
Belgian franc	36.7897	41.7430	+4.91	+0.71	1.54
Danish krone	7.1236	5.95872	+3.15	-0.05	1.63
German D-mark	2.2828	2.29819	+4.58	-0.36	1.125
French franc	3.48700	5.99758	+2.56	+0.62	1.238
Dutch guilder	2.74325	2.2430	+6.64	-0.12	1.818
Irish punt	0.665201	0.697153	+4.35	+0.13	2.668
Italian lira	1197.79	1291.24	+6.33	+2.15	1.085

Local Authority Bonds			
1 month	13 ¹ / ₂ -14 ¹ / ₂	7 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂
2 months	14 ¹ / ₂ -14 ¹ / ₂	8 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂
3 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -13 ¹ / ₂	8 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂
4 months	12 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂	10 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂
5 months	12 ¹ / ₂ -13	11 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂
6 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂	12 months	13 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂

Secondary Mkt. FCD Rates (%)			
1 month	13 ¹ / ₂ -14	6 months	12 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂
3 months	12 ¹ / ₂ -13 ¹ / ₂	12 months	12 ¹ / ₂ -12 ¹ / ₂

	Local Authority Market (%)
2 days	14 ¹ / ₂ -14 ¹ / ₄
3 months	13 ¹ / ₄

* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's weight divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-\$ Deposits		Gold	
1yr calls, 16-17%; seven days, 16-17%; one month, 17-17%; three months, 17-18%; six months, 17-18%.		Gold fixed: am. \$488.50 (an opt. pm. \$500.75 close, \$504.56). Kruggerand (per ounce): \$325.25-328.50. Sovereigns (new): \$128.8-129.571.	

5 days	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 months	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14
1 month	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 year	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Interbank Market (%)			
Overnight: Open 14$\frac{1}{2}$-14 Close 12$\frac{1}{2}$			
1 week	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 months	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 month	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 months	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$
3 months	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 months	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$
First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)			
3 months	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 months	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Finance House Base Rate 13$\frac{1}{2}$			

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]



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Breda Luddy
Employment Agency
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Administrative flair and a scientific leaning are equally important as impeccable shorthand/typing for this appointment with Guinness Overseas Ltd., the company handling Guinness' brewing interests world-wide.

As Secretary to the Technical Manager, you will yourself be involved in a wide range of administrative tasks of a technical nature - including processing lecture material, preparing visual aids and taking minutes - in addition to a challenging range of secretarial duties. And, since the Manager is frequently abroad, your initiative and decisiveness will be at a premium.

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to the Deputy Managing Director

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Mappin & Webb

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naturally previous employment agency experience will be an asset but it is not essential as you will be trained by our Director into the way we like our interviewees to work. You must be aged 20 to 35 years and be looking for a career rather than a job.

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Fulham Road, London SW3

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Salary scale £5,361-£6,839 including London Weighting. For application form and job description please contact the Personnel Department, Tel. 01-352 6171; ext. 446.

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Applications are invited for the position of Secretary/Personal Assistant to the Co-ordinator for the North European region of the world-wide Bata Shoe Organization, who is based in Oxford Street, London.

The person selected for this position will have basic commercial knowledge and be able to speak English and German or French and be able to type with a knowledge of shorthand although high speeds are not essential. Being self-reliant and an ability to work on own initiative will be most important.

The salary will be in the region of £8,000 according to the individual's ability and experience.
Applications in writing to Mr D. Copping, British Bata Shoe Company Ltd, East Tilbury, Essex. Tel. Tilbury 3400.

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Personal Secretary
Publishing

Salary Scale £5,344 - £6,235

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Benefits include 22 days leave, L.V.s, flexi time and the opportunity to qualify for generous proficiency payments.
For an application form please telephone Mrs Linda Taylor, Personnel Officer on (01) 625 8181 ext 109 or write to her at B.T.A., 64 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1NF.

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In addition to good typing and shorthand speeds, these interesting, varied and stimulating jobs require a mature personality, a sense of humour and the ability to work under pressure from time to time.

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Same title as last week—different job! We are a small but expanding computer leasing company based in Richmond, looking for an additional secretary who will thrive in a challenging and competitive environment.

You will be self-sufficient and have a logical and organized mind. If you speak German and French, this will be an advantage. All our work is done using word processors for which full training will be given.

We are offering a negotiable salary, unlikely to be less than £5,000.
Do you feel you have the dynamic qualities we are looking for?
Then ring James Carr on 01-940 1134 or write to Premier Computers Ltd., 3 Union Court, Richmond, Surrey with full C.V.

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to a Director of a Consulting Engineering and Architectural Design Company. Well educated woman aged 22-35ish. Must be fluent and type in English and German. Able to operate later aspects of a P.A. duties. Dealing with executives from different countries and companies. Willing to travel. Accommodation provided 3 working days' holiday p.a. Start 1st May or earlier. Salary £5,500.

Apply plus C.V. and photograph, Hans Schmittler, Cardinal Consulting, P.O. Box 1718, 48 Mieselsd 1, West Germany. Telephone 018 49521 177550/55257.

AT COMSHARE

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If you are between 21-29, have plenty of initiative, a sense of humour, and feel you would enjoy working in the Sales Office of one of Europe's leading Computer services companies, please telephone Graham French on 01-730 8991 for the Victoria vacancy, or Sheila Foster on 01-248 0681 for the City job.

SECRETARY

required for Partner in firm of Insurance Loss Adjusters to start work during March. Insurance experience not essential, although would be helpful. Good shorthand, typing speeds and a pleasant telephone manner are required, for which we offer a competitive salary. Hours 9.30-5.30, four weeks holiday, contributory pension scheme, plus interest free season ticket loan after probationary period. For more information, please contact Mrs. June Day on 01-836 1566. (No agencies please)

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require mature secretary/assistant with some commercial knowledge, needed as soon as possible: should have good typing and enjoy responsibility. Salary negotiable from £4,500 p.a.

Ring Jane on 01-351 3298/9

**ADMINISTRATION
£4,500 + MORTGAGE**

Progress your career in Personnel with the medium sized international bank near Liverpool Street. As Secretary/Assistant to the Personnel Manager, you will need to be numerate and have about two years relevant personnel experience. Apart from general personnel administration you will include some simple statistical work, the calculation of mortgage payments and the control of temporary staff. Good shorthand/typing skills necessary. Age 25-30.

Ring 628 4535
Recruitment Consultants
Crone Corkill

**CLIRO
PERFUMERIES**

require an experienced SECRETARY/PA

with shorthand for two directors in West End. Must be willing to use initiative and work as part of a team.

Telephone Anita 01-486 8881

**WORTHING
up to £5,500
SECRETARY/PA**

to organize small head office of international electronics company. Excellent secretarial skills required.

Apply in writing to the Managing Director, Eurochem International Ltd., 5 High St., Worthing, West Sussex.

**CONSULTANTS
W1**

As part of this busy, high-powered team your ability to work methodically and to deal with clients over the telephone and in person will be highly valued. Your duties will include administrative work and some typing (60 wpm). Smart clothes and friendly atmosphere. Salary £5,000.

Ring 457 1126

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

WEST END

Partner in a leading Selection Consultancy requires Secretary/Assistant. Shorthand and Audio are essential combined with a pleasant telephone manner and a willingness to handle the admin. side of this interesting job. Salary over £5,500.

We are a small friendly company within 10 minutes walk of Oxford Circus.

Ring Judy Booth, Tyack & Partners Ltd. 01-580 2924.

BATTERSEA PA

Successful M.D. of privately owned company urgently needs adaptable and responsible Executive Secretary with top speeds to run small London office. Salary £6,000. 5 day week. Age 25-40.

Please write with C.V. to B. J. W. Williams, Bentley House, King's Scholars' Passage, Carlisle Place, London, S.W.1.

01-828 5980 (between 9 a.m.-1 p.m.)

SECRETARY

Crawley circa £6,000

This multinational company with very pleasant offices needs a mature Secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. In addition to good skills (100/50 speeds) there will be interesting and demanding job, with plenty of client contact and some for initiative. Close to Tube, Own office. Good holidays.

01-408 1611

SENIOR SECRETARIES

173 New Bond Street W1Y 9PB

01-499 0092-01-493 5907

TRI-LINGUAL P.A.

£6,500 neg

Export Director in mid thirties requires a P.A. Secretary who has fluent French and German with first rate secretarial skills (English shorthand only). Highly involved and demanding job, with plenty of client contact and some for initiative. Close to Tube.

01-408 1611

**MacBlain
NASH**

Recruitment Consultants

CREATIVE CONSULTANTS

SOUTH KENSINGTON

Two totally different characters, working together on a range of advertising, publishing and promotional projects, are looking for a young well organized secretary with a sense of humour and a willingness to join our team and help us reach our goals. She will have her own office and a starting salary of £8,000 p.a. Speeds of 100/60 and the ability to operate telefax equipment are required. If you are interested then please send your CV to:

Box No 2539 F, The Times

SECRETARY/P.A.

c. £6,500

A top secretary required to work for the Joint M.D. of a City of London building company. Applicants should be 25+ with several years experience at a senior level, have a friendly, flexible disposition and live within 30 minutes of the office in E2.

Hours 9-5, more than 4 weeks' holiday and season ticket loan. Parking facilities.
Tel. Personnel Services Manager to arrange an interview 01-554 8191

P.A./SECRETARY

We are a small but rapidly expanding company based in Knightsbridge, and are looking for a young well organized secretary with a sense of humour and a willingness to join our team and help us reach our goals. She will have her own office and a starting salary of £8,000 p.a. Speeds of 100/60 and the ability to operate telefax equipment are required. If you are interested then please send your CV to:

Box No 2539 F, The Times

Stella Fisher

IN THE STRAND

MATURE SEC

A self-starter with good secretarial skills, with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. In addition to good skills (100/50 speeds) there will be interesting and demanding job, with plenty of client contact and some for initiative. Close to Tube, Own office. Good holidays.

01-408 1611

**TRADING
c. £6,500**

The Managing Director and a Director of the Commodity Division of a well-known City company seek a Secretary/PA (25+). You will be right at the centre of things carrying out a range of administrative work (slow shorthand), scanning the press for relevant articles, preparing a press release and generally 'getting involved' in all aspects of the company. Excellent office, generous benefits, plus a lunch.

Ring 724 4284

Career plan

Recruitment Consultants

**c. £6,300
SECRETARY/P.A.**

Central London

Work in a bright, modern office using your excellent secretarial skills (both shorthand and typing) for 2 secretaries in a large professional organisation in Central London. You'll be using a roll-back system, a typewriter, have 4 weeks' holiday, subsidised restaurant, season ticket loan, a good educational background, plenty don't hesitate to ring Valerie Williams, Opus Personnel, 488 7821 Rec. Cons.

HIGH FLYER

£7,000+

An opportunity for a dedicated, committed, secretary to join a well-known international company. As a Secretary/PA, you will be responsible for a wide range of administrative work, including typing, shorthand, and general office duties. You will be working in a modern, well-equipped office with a friendly atmosphere. Salary £7,000 p.a. plus benefits.

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Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
18 Grosvenor Street London W1
Telephone 01-499 2921

**ADMIN
SECRETARY**

W.I. c. £5,250

Wendy Restaurants (UK) Ltd. require a 2nd ambitious, capable and polished secretary for varied work including finance and property matters. The successful candidate will have excellent skills including shorthand (70/80 wpm) and typing (80/90 wpm). Preferred age range 21 to 29. Apply in writing to: Matthew Allen, Wendy Restaurants (UK) Ltd, 14 Oxford St, W1N 0HL.

**P.A. TO M.D.
OF PITMAN BOOKS**

As Personal Assistant to this young Managing Director, you will assist him in all aspects of his work and handle a wide range of administrative duties requiring good secretarial skills and the ability to work on a highly confidential level with tact, discretion and a sense of humour. Salary negotiable around £5,500, 4 weeks' holiday plus L.V.s.

Please ring Aileen Johnson on 242 1655 for further information.

**FRANKFURT
PA-£7,000 aae**

for overseas group manager of a leading power team within an engineering and construction company. German with English shorthand only. Must be able to work on own initiative and hold the fort in boss's absence.

For further details call Merrow Employment on 025 3427

**CITY
£7,000**

A leading Merchant Bank wishes to recruit a senior secretary/assistant, aged 30-40.

This responsible post calls for involvement with the Bank's shareholders and Directors, organisation of board papers, reports, minutes etc.

First class sec. skills/ admin. background essential. Subsidised mortgage, L.V.s, season ticket, etc.

DULCIE SIMPSON
405 7711

DAVID WHITE ASSOCIATES
Rec. Cons.

01-581 2977/2977

**DIRECTOR'S
SECRETARY/
ADMINISTRATOR**

£6,000-£6,700

For large international company. Secretarial experience in a banking/brokerage an advantage.

Contact Chris Salmon
Beavers Ltd.
(Personnel Recruitment Bureau)
411 Oxford Street, W1
01-629 6575

**INVITATION
CHEESE AND WINE
PARTY**

Today 12.30-2.30 p.m.

Come along to discuss your next permanent position.

RSVP Janice Sharman on 01-629 7262

7 Princes Street, W.I.

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**JCR
RECRUITMENT LTD**

c. £6,000

W.C.1

Three men setting up a residential property development. Recruitment need a P.A./Secretary to initiate their business. Help deal with clients and the public. Must be a team player and able to work on own initiative. Good shorthand and typing skills essential. Salary £5,000 p.a.

Call Kala Courtney on 01-581 2977/2977

21 Beauchamp Place SW3

Tel: 01-581 2977

SECRETARY

for Japanese stockbrokers in the City. Must be 30+ and have ability and experience in shorthand, typing, telefax and a good telephone manner. Hours 9.30-5.30, four weeks' holiday, salary £5,500. Write with C.V. to Mr R. Ichikawa, Yachiyo Securities Co. Ltd., 4/6 Copthall Ave, London EC2R 7DA.

**SECRETARY
SKI**

Residential Property

A piece of the old country house

Parts of old country houses continue to be popular in the market, mainly because of the size and good proportions of the rooms they offer, often with quality interior finishes. If the whole property is of considerable size, a part or wing may well be a substantial property in its own right. This is so in the case of Boreham Manor South House, at Boreham, near Chelmsford, a mainly Georgian property in the middle of the village.

The main accommodation here consists of three reception rooms, five bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus a play room and four large attics. Particular features, besides those of the Georgian period,

include a large, newly fitted kitchen with a breakfast room, and an octagonal conservatory with a flagged floor. Gardens around the house extend to about an acre with a garage and stables. The property is for sale, freehold, at a price of about £105,000 and Strutt and Parker along with Savills are the agents.

A good property with quite a bit of background is The Manor House, at Fovant, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, which is for sale through John D. Wood's Winchester and Taunton offices. The house has a grade two listing as being of special architectural or historic interest and was possibly built in the middle of the 16th century and extended more recently, although almost certainly there was an older house on the site before.

The house is built of local stone with a mainly thatched roof and the additions are slated. Here, there are two reception rooms, a play room, five bedrooms, three bathrooms and two attics. Outbuildings include two garages and a workshop. The whole property, which has two paddocks, is just under 61 acres and offers over £115,000.

Also with a grade two listing is Priests House, overlooking the village green at Leish, near Reigate, Surrey. The oldest part seems to have been built as the parish priest's house in the 15th century. A gal-



Henronry House, at Beckley, near Rye, in East Sussex, a four-round oast house, for sale with up to 93 acres.

leried great hall was added this century, but was built of medieval materials rescued from old buildings. The medieval east door came from Sundridge Church. The accommodation also includes two main reception rooms, a morning room and a study; plus a main bedroom, dressing room and bathroom suite, and three further bedrooms.

There is also a self-contained staff or guest flat with two rooms and a separate entrance. Gardens and grounds cover a little over three acres and include a heated

swimming pool with a paved surround and underwater lighting. Offers over £300,000 are being asked through Hampton and Sons.

On a smaller scale is Bay Tree Cottage, at Yearsley, in North Yorkshire. The property is thought to date from the sixteenth century and at one time to have been the village post office and bakehouse. It was built as two cottages and converted and modernized only in about 1967.

Present accommodation consists of two reception rooms, a study, four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

The whole property extends to just under eight acres, including extensive outbuildings and paddocks. One of the paddocks has outline planning permission for the building of two houses. Savills and Smith Gore, York office, is the agent, and the price is about £75,000.

An unusual property of interest is Henronry House, at Beckley, near Rye, in East Sussex, a four-round oast house probably over 150 years old and now well modernized. Many of the rooms are round, mostly

about 15ft in diameter. The accommodation is substantial and includes three main reception rooms, a morning room, a study, five bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus a staff sitting room. The property extends in all to about 93 acres and is expected to make about £200,000, but offers of about £120,000 would be considered for the house and five acres with a barn and other outbuildings. The agent is Geering and Colyer, of Rye.

Also well up the price scale is Oak Farm, at Peaslake, near Guildford, Surrey, believed to date originally from the eighteenth century, but added to both in the nineteenth and this century.

Main construction is of brick and stone under a tiled roof and there is a variety of accommodation. The main house has three reception rooms, a breakfast room, a kitchen, a man bedroom and bathroom suite and three further bedrooms; and a second bathroom, together with a games room in the cellar and a second playroom in the attic.

Detached from the house is a former granary converted into a guest cottage with a bedroom and bathroom suite, a living room and a combined kitchen and dining room. A further feature is a loggia and barbecue area in the garden along the swimming pool. The whole property runs to about two acres

and is for sale at £198,000 through Messengers May Baverstock, of Guildford.

Another house which has been added to is The Croft, at Maplehurst, Sussex, dating back to the middle of the nineteenth century with additions made in the 1930s and brought up-to-date more recently.

Here the accommodation is again extensive and includes three reception rooms, a study, a flower room and a playroom all downstairs, with five main bedrooms, a dressing room, two bathrooms and two more attics upstairs. Outside, a separate brick stable has a flat above it which contains a large store room, a sitting room and two bedrooms, plus its own kitchen and bathroom.

The gardens are unusually well landscaped and include a swimming pool heated by solar panels. There is also an area of wooded garden with a number of old trees which slopes down to a stream across which a brick footbridge gives access to a paddock. Not far from the house is a kitchen, which extends to about six acres. Offers in the region of £170,000 are being asked through Chirchman Burt and Son, of Hove, and John D. Wood, of London.

Gerald Ely

Residential Property



Strutt & Parker
01-629 7282 13 Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London W1X 8SL

NORTHANTS/LEICESTERSHIRE BORDER

A FINE, WELL RESTORED, MANOR HOUSE IN LOVELY RURAL SITUATION

Hall, 3 reception rooms, cloakroom, domestic offices, 4/5 main bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 secondary bedrooms. Full central heating. Extensive stabling, barns and garaging. Attractive grounds and paddock.

ABOUT 8 ACRES. From 12½ up to 305 acres also available.

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Grantham Office: Spitalgate House, 12 London Road, Tel. (0476) 5886. (Ref: 4AB2159)

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Stamford and Oakham 6 miles.

Pairborough 16 miles.

ATTRACTIVE PERIOD FORMER RECTORY in secluded village position.

Hall, 3 reception rooms, domestic offices, 7 main and 3 secondary bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Garage, Well-kept garden, about 1 Acre.

Offers around £72,000.

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Exclusive 7-unit old persons home, Westfield-on-Seas, Essex.

Useful location, ideal offices, holiday homes as new sea, golf and station. Carpeted and furnished.

278,000 or £186 p.w. Leasehold 4992 711728

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Twenty-three Continental style villas, also 5-7 garages, ideal location for selling enthusiasts. Exchange facilities available. For further details and brochure: Mrs. AQUINO LTD. (0203) 883000

SOUTH WEST HAMPSHIRE

AVON TOWN OF FORTON/CHICHESTER

An interesting period house of early origin, enlarged during the Victorian period. The house is built of local stone and has a large garden with a swimming pool, tennis court, and other facilities. For further details and brochure: Mrs. AQUINO LTD. (0203) 883000

COLLIER & COLLIER

60 HIGH STREET, HANTS. Tel. 0252 33333

NEAR SUSSEX

Five Acres. House of character, set in 10 acres of grounds including a large woodland. Fully maintained three bedrooms, large lounge, dining room, kitchen, study, and bathroom. With a large garden, swimming pool, and other facilities. For further details and brochure: Mrs. AQUINO LTD. (0203) 883000

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Large detached house, built of local stone, with a large garden, swimming pool, and other facilities. For further details and brochure: Mrs. AQUINO LTD. (0203) 883000

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or

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A Substantial Former Vicarage about 100 years old and requiring improvement. Hall, Study, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Scullery, Cloakroom, Conservatory, Cellar, 6 Bedrooms, Bathroom, 4 Attic rooms, Garage, Oil Central Heating, about 1 acre. (Further 0.48 available). FOR SALE BY AUCTION. High Wycombe Office. Tel: (0494) 21234.

WOODROW, NEAR AMERSHAM

A unique country cottage dating from 1832 set in about ONE ACRE in this Chiltern hamlet. Hall, Drawing room with inglenook. Study area. Dining room. Kitchen/Breakfast. 4 Bedrooms. Dressing room. Luxury bathroom. En Suite shower room. Garage. Central Heating. Paddock and Formal Gardens. £115,000 Freehold. Tel: (0494) 5836.

CHESHAM

Set in THREE ACRES incorporating small vineyard and walking distance of Met. Line Station. Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast. 4 Bedrooms. Bathroom. Garage. Central Heating. Offers in the region of £85,000 Freehold. Tel: (02403) 5836. Close to Town Centre

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NEW FREEHOLD BRICK BUILT HOLIDAY HOMES BY

1. 3 bedroom bungalow, detached, modern kitchen, living room, dining room, bathroom, garage, and garden. Price £120,000.

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FAST, reliable, 12 yrs. experienced commercial services offered from my home. Anything secretarial, typing, bookkeeping, correspondence etc. considered. -219 5035 or 0171 499999.

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Two nature persons to share a 3 bed. flat in a large house. -219 5035 or 0171 499999.

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Full furnished property. All London areas. -219 5035 or 0171 499999.

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FLATS, HOUSES & BEDROOMS

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BIRTHS

BOURNE—On 16th February, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a daughter, Jane, to Mr and Mrs J. Bourne, of 15, St. John's Road, London. A daughter, Jane, to Mr and Mrs J. Bourne, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

CONYNGHAM—On 16th February, 1981, at King's College Hospital, a daughter, Jane, to Mr and Mrs J. Conyngham, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

DEAN—On 16th February, 1981, at King's College Hospital, a daughter, Jane, to Mr and Mrs J. Dean, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

DEAN—On 16th February, 1981, at King's College Hospital, a daughter, Jane, to Mr and Mrs J. Dean, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

DEAN—On 16th February, 1981, at King's College Hospital, a daughter, Jane, to Mr and Mrs J. Dean, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

DEATHS

COUGH—On 16th February, 1981, peacefully, after an illness, Mrs. Wendy, wife of Mr. J. Cough, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

HACKETT—On 16th February, 1981, peacefully, after an illness, Mrs. Wendy, wife of Mr. J. Hackett, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

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Red Cross volunteers all over Britain are working every day to help the victims of the earthquake in Iran. In hundreds of different ways, they are helping to bring comfort and relief to the victims. They are also helping to bring comfort and relief to the victims of the earthquake in Iran.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
DEPT. 281
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MARRIAGES

HODGE—On 16th February, 1981, at King's College Hospital, a daughter, Jane, to Mr and Mrs J. Hodge, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

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DEATHS

BUCKLE—On 16th February, 1981, peacefully, after an illness, Mrs. Wendy, wife of Mr. J. Buckle, of 15, St. John's Road, London.

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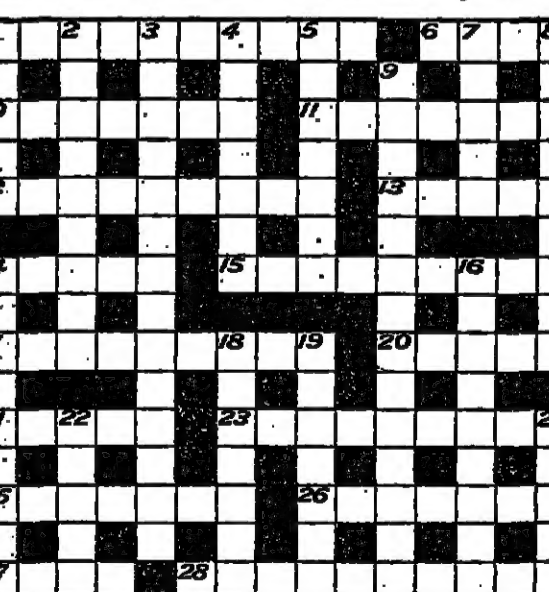
LOW COST TRAVEL

WINTER/SUMMER PRICES

1981 LANGS SUPREME Times National Crossword Championship

For an explanation of puzzle No 15,449, the eliminator crossword in the 1981 Langs Supreme Times National Crossword Championship, see page 14.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,453



ACROSS

1 A Roman's "hic" when drunk with liquor (10).

2 Poet, Old English with internal degree (4).

3 More needing a bath—beginning to get frostier (7).

4 With nothing on, dashed around and was amorous (7).

5 Roary old fool gets the bird (4, 5).

6 Drunk about—or rather less than two pints (5).

7 Simple one in design (5).

8 Dickens devotee (5).

9 Was very on to change the tools (5, 4).

10 Approaches left bend (5).

11 It's not fitting to sleep in it (5).

12 Rubbish about doctor gets a measure of great surprise (9).

13 Bunting set back in Algerian port (7).

14 Blackthorn, kind of runny with drink (4, 3).

15 Pretty large receptacle for scraps (4).

16 Something better beaten (6, 4).

1981 LANGS SUPREME Times National Crossword Championship

For an explanation of puzzle No 15,449, the eliminator crossword in the 1981 Langs Supreme Times National Crossword Championship, see page 14.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,453



DOWN

1 Big fellow puts pep in the periodical (5).

2 How sugar-growers, say, create it (5, 4).

3 But it's not so to one sufficiently glibly (8, 6).

4 Enfant terrible in the chamber? Cry of dismay (7).

5 Budding new starter gets a rise (7).

6 Painter with little time to catch his impression (5).

7 Gets in line again for rancorous (9).

8 Dickens' women do the country round in brief (6, 3, 5).

9 Attic overtaken by a girl (9).

10 A street-cleaner—namely a street (5).

11 Prohibition, among other things, in the republic (7).

12 Guy Monnering's dominion a strong soft-hearted man (7).

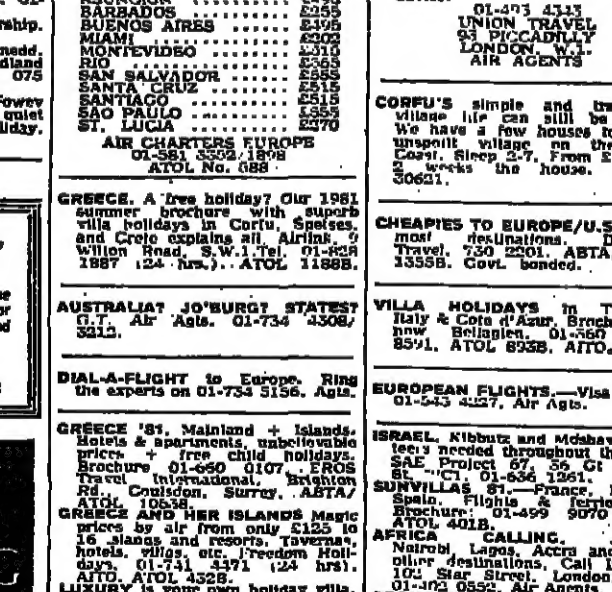
13 Worked and played (5).

14 Drive forward—the point in a toboogan (5).

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